Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-88-229 *29 November 1988*

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OAS To Expand Commission on Drug Abuse

FL2811143588 Bridgetown CANA in English 2204 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Nov 27, CANA—The Organisation of American States (OAS), reaffirming its commitment to the war on drugs, has decided to expand the membership of its anti-drug commission and hold a follow-up ministerial-level meeting to deal with hemispheric efforts against narcotics.

The decisions were contained in two of three resolutions adopted this month during the week-long OAS general assembly.

The third resolution listed 15 recommendations, among them acceptance of the annual report submitted by the OAS Inter-American Commission on Drug Abuse (CICAD).

The resolution on CICAD membership, which was introduced by Chile and Venezuela, will expand the commission to 21 members from 11.

Argentina, the Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, the United States, and Venezuela have served on CICAD since the OAS set up the commission at the 1986 general assembly in Guatemala.

The 10 new members have yet to be selected.

The OAS established CICAD after a ministerial-level meeting held in Rio de Janeiro in April 1986, drafted an inter-American programme of action against illicit drug consumption and trafficking.

Noting the success of that meeting, the last general assembly approved a follow-up meeting of ministers at the behest of the United States.

In a speech to the general assembly, November 14, Secretary of state George P. Shultz said the United States "would urge that cabinet-level ministers meet as soon as possible this coming year to energise this narcotics efforts."

During the discussion of the resolutions, William Price, the U.S. deputy chief of mission to the OAS, praised CICAD's work and reiterated U.S. support for convening such a meeting.

Price said: "CICAD has had a good and productive year—a fact that is well reflected in the commission's report to this assembly."

After highlighting some of CICAD's accomplishments, Price added, "the progress is due in large part to the strenuous efforts of the secretariat in support of the commission's objectives.

According to the resolution, the second ministerial meeting would reasses "the present status of the drug problem and the priorities for inter-American action within the framework of the programme of action at Rio de Janeiro and with the participation of CICAD."

The second resolution, sponsored by Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, reaffirmed the principles, goals, and general objectives of the programme of the action drawn up in Rio de Janeiro and reaffirmed at the Guatemala general assembly.

It also urged the international community to institute effective mechanisms to control trade in chemicals used to manufacture narcotics and recommended that the member states co-operate in reducing demand, eliminating illegal production, promoting crop substitution, prohibiting illicit trafficking, and preventing the laundering of money and other assets.

Ibero-American Congress Presidents Meet

PY2911025788 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Report from Sucre by Luz Mendoza]

[Excerpt] With a 1-hour delay, the solemn opening session of the 6th conference of Ibero-American Congress Presidents was held today at 1930.

In an atmosphere filled with solemnity and expectation, and following an old Caroline [reference to court of Spanish King Charles V] tradition, Bolivian Vice President Julio Garret Ayllon delivered a speech from the podium.

Julio Garret emphasized aspects that are very important for the Latin American nations. He also proposed that, through the Ibero-American Congress Presidents, and taking advantage of the presence of the Spanish parliament president at this international meeting, a call be made for the presidents of the seven industrialized nations to meet soon to discuss a number of topics aspects interesting to the underdeveloped nations. [passage omitted]

Southern Cone Ministerial Meeting Ends

PY2611153788 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Fourteen cooperation accords were signed during the closing session of the Ministers of Public Works and Transportation meeting which was held in Canela, Rio Grande do Sul.

According to Brazilian Transportation Minister Jose Tavares, one of the main accords includes the international cargo declaration, which will allow carriers to use a single document from their departure point to their destination. Another document signed by the ministers stressed the need for creating a transportation corridor

between the Pacific and Atlantic. The only missing link in the corridor is a bridge over the Uruguay River joining Sao Borja, in Rio Grande do Sul and Santo Tome, in Argentina.

Minister Tavares said that this meeting was very important for integration in South America.

[Begin Tavares recording] [Words indistinct] (?We solved pending problems), some of which had been awaiting solution for more than 15 years. I believe we have made a significant contribution to the opening of a future Latin American common market. [end recording]

Minister Tavares announced that by next Thursday, President Jose Sarney will submit to Congress a bill proposing the adoption of an annual highway toll system to raise funds for the maintenance of Brazilian highways. The minister said the government intends to raise more than 500 billion cruzados for maintaining 11,000 km of federal highways.

Cuba

Alarcon Discusses UN Withdrawal Verification

MB2511195088 London BBC World Service in English 1830 GMT 25 Nov 88

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] The South Africans are still very suspicious about Cuban intentions in Angola and the withdrawal of Cuban troops in accordance with the agreement reached in Geneva and now awaiting final signature. The South Africans have been going on and on about the timetable for the withdrawal.

Well, Cuba's Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon has gone to new York to reassure the United Nations about Cuba's plans and talk about the possibility of a UN monitoring role in Angola. Our New York correspondent, Marien Hook, has been talking to Mr Alarcon. She telexed this report:

The Cuban deputy foreign minister said that his country wanted to make a contribution to the solution of the entire conflict in the area, especially in guaranteeing the independence of Namibia according to UN Resolution 435. Cuba, he said, wanted the world to be convinced that its parts of the commitment were really fulfilled.

Mr Alarcon described the proposed monitoring as rather a simple operation—just a matter of having independent observers from the UN at the airports and ports of departure from where Cuban military personnel will leave Angola. The UN observers, he stated, would be asked to witness and certify that a specific number of Cuban troops with their weapons have left on a particular date in accordance with a specific plan. Mr Alarcon added that there was no precedent for this in the history of UN observer operations.

The UN has always previously been involved in monitoring the separation of forces and in helping both sides of a particular conflict to be satisfied that the other performs a particular action, and so on. In this case, he said, the UN will be asked to monitor the withdrawal of a military force which was not part of an international war but which was instead in a country with the agreement of the government of that country and which will be leaving with the agreement of that government.

Cuban forces went to help Angola resist the South African aggression, the Cuban minister stated, and now their forces would be leaving under peaceful circumstances.

MPLA Praises Internationalist Support

FL2811175488 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] The Central Committee of the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola]-Labor Party has highlighted Cuban internationalist aid and has called it a contribution to the well-being of the Angolan people.

A resolution issued in Luanda at the end of the 22d ordinary session of the MPLA-Labor Party praises highly the internationalist cooperation it has received—from the beginning of the armed struggle for the national liberation—especially the Cuban aid. Considering the decisive role played by Cuba in the defense of the independence and sovereignty of Angola, the Central Committee of the aforementioned organization agreed to (?use) the memory of Raul Diaz Arguelles as the symbol and worthy example of Cuban combatants who fell with Angolan troops. The cooperative spirit of Cuban units in the consolidation of Angola's conquests was also praised.

The MPLA-Labor Party also exhorted the United States to respect and understand Angola's aspiration to live in peace and harmony with all the countries of the world.

Castro Inaugurates Industrial Military Plant

Need for Weaponry Cited

PA2811142988 Havana Cubavision Television in Spanish 0150 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Report by unidentified reporter on "excerpts" of speech by President Fidel Castro at the inauguration of the Ignacio Agramonte Industrial Military Plant in Camaguey Province on 27 November—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Castro] "Eight years ago, what we see here now—these marvelous installations, this group of working youths—was only a dream, an idea. Exactly 8 years ago, we experienced a time of threats against our homeland and our revolution because of the warmongering and aggressive policy of a U.S. Administration that claimed our revolution had to be swept from the face of the earth.

"Although for many years we had been making great efforts to organize and develop the country's defense, and for many years we received many weapons from the Soviet Union and other socialist countries—but basically from the Soviet Union—those weapons were not enough for the plan we needed to defend the country with the participation of all the Cuban people. That plan is known as the war of the entire people.

"Those needs, risks, threats, and the basic response to those needs and threats, required millions of weapons, millions of weapons [Castro repeats himself]. In other words, we practically needed one weapon for each Cuban man and woman who was able to fight.

"It is true that thanks to foreign cooperation and the 300 shipments of light weapons that we received from the Soviet Union during that period—especially during the first few years of that period when the Soviet Union sent us hundreds of thousands of light weapons—and thanks to other weapon shipments, the few purchases we made, and the local fabrication of mines, grenades, etc, we succeeded in obtaining enough weapons for millions of people.

"We had all kinds of weapons. We had weapons that were used at the beginning of the war in the Soviet Union during the fascist aggression. We received bolt-action rifles, the famous PPSh [Soviet-made submachineguns], which we know so well and which were immortalized during the Soviet Union's war of the fatherland. Other kinds of rifles arrived in Cuba, including all types and makes of Soviet rifles that were made during at least the last 50 years. I am not sure if we even have some rifles from the time of the October Revolution. We received all kinds of weapons. For us all weapons are useful, including sports weapons. The famous [word indistinct] rifles. We began with those weapons. Most of the weapons we had on 26 July 1953 were [word indistinct] rifles like those that are being used at firing ranges to train our citizens. We even count those rifles in case of war. We count rifles, shotguns and even knives and machetes. We count anything that can be useful for the country's defense."

"However, the idea of manufacturing light weapons for our defense—as I was saying—was only a dream. Of course, such an idea would not have been possible without the USSR's generous cooperation. The USSR has much more experience than we do; much more experience in everything having to do with mechanical industry and weapons' production. We used USSR cooperation to build this factory. We began building it in 1981. Today, we are here—not to begin production, because this factory has already been working and producing—to officially inaugurate the plant that has been completed and which has a large number of workers. The plant is producing, and the proof of this is this rifle that has been completely manufactured in this plant.

"The first rifles that were manufactured in this plant were not totally manufactured here. At first, we started by assembling components that came from the USSR. However, this rifle that we have here today is a rifle that has been completely manufactured here—all of its 200 parts or components. I do not know if the number of components is a military secret. [laughter] Sometimes, we have military secrets that everyone knows. [applause] Oh well, secrets must be guarded in one's heart. That is where the enemy cannot see or even estimate with all of his satellites and espionage. He cannot see what one carries in one's heart, in the minds of each revolutionary, of each patriot; that is the essence of our strength. [applause]"

[Reporter] Later, commenting on the importance of this very modern plant, our commander in chief said:

[Castro] "I would say this plant can be called a jewel of the mechanical industry. [applause] In fact, looking at it from another angle, the mechanical industry has the most highly qualified personnel all over the country. [applause] I would say this could be deduced by the single fact given by the director, who said the plant has 451 high-level graduates, hundreds and hundreds—760—of midlevel technicians, and thousands of skilled workers. No mechanical plant in the country has that [type of] labor force. If we add [applause] if we add [Castro repeats himself] that the [workers'] average age is 24, everyone would understand that no other mechanical plant in the country, possibly no other industry .... [Castro changes thought] I am sure there is no other mechanical plant that has such a young labor force. [indistinct slogan, crowd responds: "Viva!"]. What we have here is a true promise. Having already seen what this plant produces—with organization and quality—what will this plant not produce? What will not emerge from this plant in the years to come as you acquire more and more experience?

"We could analyze this industry from another viewpoint. It is the national viewpoint. This industry cannot just be analyzed from a military stance. Instead, it can be analyzed from the viewpoint of what the march toward the country's industrialization means. There was no mechanical industry in Cuba before the revolution. The revolution practically created the mechanical industry. Without the mechanical industry, there can be no development."

[Reporter] Fidel also spoke to the Camaguey residents following a detailed analysis of their development.

[Castro] "About 19 or 20 months ago—19 months ago—we visited this province for several days. We toured many areas and met with party members and party officials. We devised a prospective work plan for the province in many areas, especially in the area of food production.

"On that occasion we developed a detailed milk development plan for the province. The plan entailed the construction of 300 dairy farms in the Camaguey triangle [triangulo de Camaguey]. These farms would allow us to produce 1 million liters of milk a day—at least during springtime.

"We also developed a plan that included all the roads, reservoirs, and installations needed, not only in the dairy farms, but also in breeding farms, in communities, and in villages. We not only planned houses for the community, we also planned the other installations that a community needs.

"We created development programs for shrimp breeding, for unproductive land, for producing serpentine, and beef production. Most of all, we planned programs for soil recovery. There are two brigades working on soil recovery—one that already existed and one that was created later. We thought of creating a third brigade. However, this has not been necessary, because the two brigades are doing the work of three.

"The large-scale plan to build dairy farms began this year. At the end of last year, we organized and began the program. In addition, we have developed fisheries—fish production—and properly used sugarcane byproducts. Have I already mentioned the shrimp industry? Shrimp breeding is being developed in southern Camaguey. We have said that with this widespread and ambitious food production plan, Camaguey could become a food production model for the Third World."

[Reporter] At the end of the ceremony, Castro said:

[Castro] "We must praise the collective's youth and enthusiasm; must also praise the great amount of women in the collective. For this reason, we leave with very good impressions of this industrial plant, its workers, and its directors—the comrade in charge of this plant. I was very happy to see the caring, the trust, and the warmth which you received him when he came to speak at this podium. Because today is Sunday—and it is time to rest—I bid you farewell. " Fatherland or death." [Crowd shouts "We will win"] [applause].

[Reporter] Shortly before the opening ceremony of the Ignacio Agramonte Plant in Camaguey, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro toured the center's various installations. During the tour, Castro received a detailed explanation on how to operate the different pieces of high-quality precision equipment. Colonel Luis Perez, director of the plant, was responsible for providing the president of Cuba's Council of State and the Council of Ministers with this information. Castro later described the plant as a jewel of Cuba's mechanical industry and a source of pride for the people of Camaguey.

Camaguey Could Host on 26 Jul

FL2811202388 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The personnel of the machinery factory and Camaguey residents demonstrated the joy and the enthusiasm that characterize the multiple projects under construction by the revolution in the province. They also demonstrated the efforts Camaguey has made so that it can be the national host to the celebrations of 26 July in 1989.

[Begin Castro recording] [Crowd applauding and shouting repeatedly: the 26th in Camaguey!] I can see that you have guessed it. I think that based on the efforts made these years, in 1987, 1988, and based on the achievements of the province you desire that the next 26th [July] celebrations be held in Camaguey [applause]. This will be the 30th anniversary of the 26 July celebration. Do you know what that means? Well, it means many things, I know. When a province is nominated to host the 26th, it means that the province begins asking all the other provinces for things to .... [does not complete sentence] The province begins asking for everything: materials, people, resource, help, support. That is the first thing that happens when there is a 26 July celebration.

The second thing that happens is that it asks the government, the planning commission, and everyone to send them cement, [word indistinct], wood, etc., because they have such and such plans. That always happens around the 26th. It is also true, however, that around the 26 July celebrations great enthusiasm and working spirit emerge. Many goals are set, and undoubtedly progress is made. Also around the 26th, contact is made with the project of a province. During the last one in Santiago de Cuba, for example, we all came into contact with the efforts carried out by Santiago de Cuba. It was also obvious that they worked, very hard. It is true that they asked everyone for help. However, the work that they did for the 26 July celebration was very impressive.

And now, you have just requested to be a candidate for hosting the 26 July celebration. What can I do? I cannot decide that right here. We must decide it with the party's leadership. The most I can do is promise to help you, and support you so that you can host the 26th. [applause] The decision will be based on the unquestionable effort that the province is making, and on what it has already accomplished and proposes to accomplish. I am almost certain that you will reach that goal. What I can do is make this proposal as soon as possible so that you'll know several months beforehand whether or not you'll be the host—better yet, whether you'll be the host, let's do away with the word not. I know that all this will help you with the plans [interrupted by indistinct shouts by crowd] of course, of course. I know that it will help you with the ambitious plans you have. It will generate a lot of strength. Hopefully, by December we will have resolved this matter so that, with that goal and banner in mind, the infinite strength of this enthusiastic, trained, and young people of Camaguey can be unfolded. [applause] [end recording]

Castro Presents Banner to Construction Workers

FL2811214288 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2102 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers of Cuba, presented a banner today in Las Tunas to the Victoria de Playa Giron contingent which is building the road to the northern beach of Cobarrubia. The top leader of the revolution talked extensively with the 82 laborers who are building a 20-km long road in a record time.

The new road will give access to the Cobarrubias Beach in Las Tunas. International tourism is going to be developed here with the construction of facilities for this purpose. The commander in chief praised the outstanding work of the construction workers and of the Las Tunas contingent that built the 200 T rolling mill in only a little over 14 months. This rolling mill will be inaugurated in the province's capital during a huge event at 1700.

Raul Castro Praises Military Committees

FL2811215588 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Army General Raul Castro yesterday congratulated the military committees on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of their founding and the enactment of the military service law. Raul's message was read during a ceremony held at the Abel Santamaria Park in Santiago de Cuba to mark the two events.

It was announced at the same time that political and state leaders have begun touring mountainous areas of Granma Province linked with the development of the Turquino Plan at the invitation of Raul. Esteban Lazo, member of the PCC Politburo, and Julian Rizo, member of the Secretariat, are heading the group.

Caricom

Regional Leaders Meet for Economic Conference

FL2311150788 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Several Caribbean leaders have ended a 2-day economic gathering in St Thomas. The delegates heard an appeal for greater participation by the non-independent territories in the Caribbean.

The meeting in the Virgin Islands also discussed developing joint marketing strategies for regional products. Aruba was admitted to observer status to the body just before the session started.

Haiti

President Avril Outlines New Economic Policy

FL2811191388 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, president of the military government, invited all the nation's sectors to the Salle des Bustes of the National Palace last Friday afternoon [25 November] to listen to the message in which he set forth his economic plan for this year. One of our reporters, Jean-Claude Gilles, was present, and will tell you about it.

[Gilles] Before the Haitian Armed Forces High Command, cabinet members, and prominent figures from industry and commerce, the chief of state, Lt Gen Prosper Avril, Friday evening presented to the nation the economic policy that he intends to implement in the coming days.

The president said that in the coming months, there should be jobs for some 15,000 people if the government manages to come up with 75,000 gourdes with which to finance this project. However, said the president, the government's action will not be limited to the sphere of employment. The government is also planning to build houses for the people who are sleeping in the streets and sometimes even on the ground itself. This project is called the National Housing Fund [Fonds National de l'Habitat], and a large part of the private sector is helping with it.

The president also talked about our roads, which are in a state of total disrepair, and about our public offices, which have always been inefficient. He announced that his government intends to build a few small administrative complexes, in order to minimize the public administration. The work will then be bearable for the civil servants.

Regarding the roads, the president said they were going to begin to repair them right away, to bring relief to all using them.

Such actions will make our surroundings cleaner. This is the only way for the economy to blossom properly. Meanwhile, the private sector will not stop helping.

The president continued, and we quote: A system of taxes and duties, well-separated and well-applied, combined with a battle against contraband, will reduce dependency on aid from overseas, which comes to 400-million gourdes.

According to the president, the government has promised to avoid any budget deficit. Thus, they are taking a number of measures to revise banking regulations and monetary instruments, and [the regulations affecting] a number of other financial institutions, such as the insurance companies.

Good relations between the unions and management in Haiti, plus important collaboration from the diaspora, is what will make this economic vision a reality.

New Armed Forces Rank Created by Decree

FL2811205088 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1800 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] The Ministry of Information and Coordination announces that the following steps have been taken within the Haitian Armed Forces by government decree:

1. The rank of sergeant major of the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] High Command is created within the noncommissioned officers in the line service.

2. The sergeant major of the High Command takes precedence over all the military institution's enlisted men and is assigned to the FADH High Command.

3. The sergeant major of the FADH High Command is chosen from among the sergeants, staff sergeants, first sergeants, and sergeant majors, or equivalents, in active service.

Concern Over High Cost of U.S. Dollar Noted

FL2311181588 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] The cost of the U.S. dollar has been increasing steadily on the Haitian market for some time now. This is a subject of much concern here.

People traveling, people in trade, and everyone in general is complaining about the high cost of buying dollars with gourdes. According to the money exchangers, the U.S. dollar is currently at 29 percent. This means that each U.S. $100 that you buy actually costs you $129.

The rise in the cost of U.S. dollars is already causing serious problems—and already has had severe repercussions—on commercial activity here in Haiti. We can expect to see an increase in the cost of imported goods in the coming days because of the rise in the cost of the U.S. dollar; and consumption is automatically going to drop, in view of this increase in the cost of the U.S. dollar.

In this connection, Mr Eddy Etienne, the general director of the BRH [Banque de la Republic d'Haiti, the central bank], told the press recently that he was going to do everything he could to try to solve this problem. He is going to try to (?manage a little better) the greenbacks available on the market.

In any case, the high cost of the U.S. dollar is giving rise to many problems. We think the authorities should try and do something about the high cost of the U.S. dollar, which is rising daily.

'17 Sep Coup ' Soldiers Reportedly Ill

FL2611013088 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Excerpt] The soldiers who have been imprisoned in the National Penitentiary since 15 October for allegedly wanting to overthrow the Avril government have many medical problems. Several of them have diarrhea, malaria, typhoid fever, (?or) headaches. They are obliged to drink bad water and are being devoured by mosquitoes. One of the soldiers was so sick that he had to be taken to the military hospital for medical care. He was later returned to prison.

According to information gathered by the press after 17 October, most of these soldiers locked up at the National Penitentiary participated in the 17 September coup. They are said to have been arrested because they wanted to push aside a number of tonton macoutes involved in the latest crimes committed in Haiti, and also—(?according to them)—because they wanted to unroot [dechouke] a number of Armed Forces members close to General Henri Namphy. [passage omitted]

Death Threats Cited

FL2811193488 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The three soldiers [from Saut d'Eau] imprisoned in Mirebalais were released yesterday, Sunday. The soldiers said they were released without ever having been told why they had been arrested. [passage omitted] Here is our correspondent from Cabaret with the details.

[Correspondent] According to the Haitian Armed Forces General Headquarters, the three soldiers from Saut d'Eau who were imprisoned in Mirebalais were released on 27 November. Their names are (Dalix Rigois), (Saint-Ange Joli), and (Dieulissaint Avril). These men have been transferred to Thomassique and Hinche. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Meanwhile, in Port-au-Prince, the soldiers under arrest since 15 October 1988 are still rotting in jail, despite the fact that diverse human rights organizations have been demanding that their lawyers be allowed to talk to them, and that they be taken to court as soon as possible.

[Second Announcer] We must also point out that the relatives of these soldiers held a press conference last week at KID [Confederation For Democratic Unity] headquarters citing danger to the soldiers. The soldiers' relatives said they [not further identified] had threatened to kill the soldiers.

However, we contacted a member of the Armed Forces at the National Penitentiary who told us that these were rumors being circulated in order to cause trouble in Haiti. He said the soldiers were in perfect health at the National Penitentiary.

Drivers Union Federation Threatens Strike

FL2311235988 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Excerpt] The CSTH, which is the Central Organization of Haitian Transport Workers Unions [Sentral Sendikal Transporte Ayisyen] and is affiliated with the Federation of Workers Trade Unions, [Federasyon Ouvriye Sendike], FOS informs the public in a press release dated 21 November 1988 that they held a meeting at their headquarters on 20 November. The meeting was to determine the CSTH's position in the face of the nasty [move] actions being taken by traffic policemen against drivers of public transportation vehicles. In view of the nasty actions taken by policemen numbered 67, 225, 147, 202, 85, and 222 against drivers of public transportation vehicles in both the capital and provincial towns, the CSTH is asking to meet with the head of the traffic department on Monday, 28 November, at 1100. If this meeting is refused—if it does not take place—the CSTH is planning to go on a 3-day strike as of 5 December to demand satisfaction regarding a number of things, such as:

1. To stop the actions of these policemen against public transportation vehicle drivers.

2. To oblige them [not further identified] to repair the streets needing repair in the capital and provincial towns.

3. To get them [not further identified] to, in conformity with Articles 2, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 11 of the legislation on this matter, move the street vendors who have set up their wares in the streets in the capital.

4. To have traffic signs showing when a driver should pass and and when he must stop.

5. To have the price of gasoline, which has risen too high in Haiti, lowered.

This press release is signed by [union] Vice President (Felix Jean Lenoce) and Secretary General Daceus Louisius. [passage omitted]

Teachers Striking Over Unexpected Pay Cuts

FL2511232288 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Report by Jeremie correspondent Frankel Valentin]

[Excerpts] The teachers from the national school (?in) Ravine Blanche have been on strike since yesterday. We interviewed them.

They said they were not going to teach because the Education Ministry simply cut their pay, without contacting them in advance or contacting the teachers association, which exists to defend the teachers' interests. The teachers say their pay has been cut, whereas people in certain other sectors have gotten raises. However, the teachers did not specify the sectors. The teachers say they will not go back to work until the Ministry of Education makes some kind of statement on this matter. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] [Passage omitted] We stopped work today not only because they cut our pay but also because of the lack of respect! They cut our pay without warning and did not even tell us why. We know they have increased other sectors' pay; whereas they have cut ours. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Government Employees Protest Director's Firing

FL2611011888 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Excerpt] The employees of the ODN [government agency for the development of northern Haiti] have written General Avril about the problems within the ODN following the firing of ODN Director (Wilfrid Brise) by Minister of Agriculture Frederic Agenor. It has been impossible to install the new director because of protesting by a group of employees. [passage omitted]

Alleged Ringleaders in Athis Death Released

FL2311140988 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Report by Petit Goave correspondent (Max A. Metellus]

[Text] After the Prosper Avril government made public the investigation into the death of Louis Eugene Athis, there was a a rumor circulating in Petit Goave to the effect that the representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor in Petit Goave had released (Gustave Blanc), (Nelien Blanc), (Renaud Alexis), (Edgard Charles), and (Joseph Deristil) back on 24 September 1988. These five people were in prison in Petit Goave accused of having participated in killing Louis Eugene Athis.

We met with the representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor for Petit Goave, who told us that he had indeed released these five people—on 27 September 1988. He said that the examining magistrate of the civil court of Petit Goave had sent him an order to this effect.

Police Participation in Death Squads Alleged

FL2811192188 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Speaking of 28 and 29 November, we must say that the masses are subjected to activities like 28 and 29 November almost daily especially given the climate of insecurity prevailing in Haiti.

(Michelet Dubreus) and (Jean Felix) were shot and killed by a death squad that visited them in the Boston area of Cite Soleil Saturday night. One of the members of the squad was wearing a police uniform.

They exhibited that same old arrogance, and attitude of people who feel they are all-powerful and no one can touch them. They took the time to ask the men to come out of the house before they gunned them down.

Jamaica

Opposition Leader Manley Begins Campaign

FL2811235888 Bridgetown CANA in English 1850 GMT 28 Nov 88

[By Paget de Freitas]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Nov 28, CANAQ—Opposition leader Michael Manley set off Monday on a six-day round-the-island campaign swing, and taunted Prime Minister Edward Seaga for not yet setting the date for imminent general elections here.

"I see that the man (Seaga) was afraid to face it (the election) before Christmas," Manley told cheering supporters as his motorcade prepared to leave the capital, heading for the Eastern parish of St Thomas. According to Manley, Seaga was apparently now hoping that what he could not achieve before Christmas would be achievable afterwards.

Manley, like some other analysts here, apparently, after a radio and television broadcast by Seaga last Thursday night, came to the conclusion that Seaga had ruled out holding the elections anytime during the rest of this year.

Seaga, seeking an unprecedented third consecutive term as prime minister, was elected for his second term on December 15, 1983 in an election boycotted by the parliamentary opposition. However, the life of his government runs until January 9, next year, the fifth anniversary of the first sitting of the current parliament. But Seaga can stay in office a further three months, ruling with his cabinet, and utilising a grace period provided by the Constitution.

There was widescale speculation prior to Seaga's broadcast that he would use the opportunity to announce an election for mid-December which would get the poll over with before the important winter tourist season. But Seaga's remarks, the timetable he set for the full distribution of post hurricane relief and the work required to set up an election left most analysts with the view that the election would at earliest be held in late January, but more possible in February. They felt that Seaga was seeking time to recover from a sharp lag in the opinion polls following a surge to his Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) which brought it within two points of Manley's People's National Party (PNP) in the immediate aftermath of hurricane Gilbert's destruction in September.

A survey by top pollster Professor Carl Stone, in late October said that the PNP had opened up a 10-point lead on the JLP, giving the opposition party a 55 percent support among committed voters and 45 percent of the JLP.

PNP sources claimed Monday that recent private polls commissioned by the party showed that the PNP had moved its support to 58 percent compared with 42 percent for the JLP. Private polls commissioned by the JLP showed similar standings, they claimed, in part reflecting the government's difficulties in dealing with perception of bungling and mishandling of hurricane relief.

Manley suggested to his supporters Monday that it would have been better for Seaga to have called the election early and cut his losses. "There is a spirit (among PNP supporters) that will not be turned away," Manley remarked. "The longer that he keeps us waiting, the higher the spirit soars."

Manley, whose tour will take him through more than 300 towns and villages, 24 day-time spot meetings and seven major night-time ones, described the government's major rehhabilitation spending as a last-minute scurry to buy votes. The government's deeds, he said, would not be judged by what was done when an "election is around the corner." "The money now cannot wipe out the suffering of eight years," he said.

Jamaicans would remember what had been done to education, health, housing, the poor and workers during the Seaga administration, Manley said. "Thhose are going to be on the minds of the people when he finally faces the people," Manley said, adding that Seaga could not indefinitely put off the elections. "He has to face the people at some time," he said.

St. Lucia

Parliament Passes Stiffer Antidrug Legislation

FL2311174388 Bridgetown CANA in English
1702 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, Nov 23, CANA—Convicted drug trafficers in St Lucia can now receive life imprisonment and the courts can confiscate their profits from the trade on behalf of the government. These are among the provisions of St Lucia's new anti-drug legislation, passed in the Parliament Tuesday.

The 1988 Drug (prevention of misuse) Act, replaces the dangerous drugs ordinance which government thinks is outdated and offers no firm enough basis to effectively fight the growing drug culture in St Lucia.

In piloting the bill Prime Minister John Compton said, "the legislation will not only make penalties stiffer, but will authorise the confiscation of property that can be traced to drug trafficking." He said the bill would give the police more powers and the courts greater jurisdiction in dealing with drug related matters.

"The new bill will serve severe punishment for those pushers who target school children for the criminal deeds, and anyone found with dangerous drugs in any area where children congregate will feel the full brunt of this law," Compton told Parliament.

Under the act, one can be fined up to 100,000 East Caribbean Dollars (one EC dollar—37 U.S. cents) upon conviction in a magistrates court and up to life imprisonment if convicted in the high court.

Compton underscored the need for community from the cooperation to help reduce trafficing in hard drugs. "The bugle call must go out for war on drugs, a war which the entire community must participate in," he said.

The leader of the opposition, Julian Hunte, told parliament he was pleased to see that the legislation has finally come before the chamber. However, he felt that parts of the bill should be strengthened.

"The legislation should make provisions for preventing persons arrested on drug trafficking charges from selling off their property. In addition, safeguards must be put in place to avoid people being set up," Hunte said.

The opposition leader stressed that trafficking "is everbody's problem", and said that the opposition stood prepared to support the bill as long as the government provided instruments giving more power to agencies such as the police who had to enforce the law.

The bill lists 121 dangerous drugs and substances outlawed by the government. Cocaine, morphine and opium fall under category A while cannabis (marijuanna) is placed under group B.

Compton disclosed that the United States had agreed to set up a laboratory here to serve the entire Eastern Caribbean area in analysing certain drugs, making it unnecessary to use facilities in Trinidad and Tobago.

Trinidad and Tobago

Reginald Dumas To Head Public Service Sector

FL2411191388 Bridgetown CANA in English
2215 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Nov 24, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson on Wednesday confirmed press reports that the country's ambassador to Washington, Reginald Dumas, will be the new head of the 65,000-strong public service. Robinson made reference to Dumas's new job during a speech to open a new electronics plant in north west Trinidad.

"As an indication of the government's intention in this regard," he said commenting on the need to provide a bureaucracy supportive of private sector development, "the new head of the public service will be a highly-qualified and experienced diplomat and administrator who has studied the problems of the public service extensively.

"He is being transferred from the post of ambassador to Washington to head the public service," Robinson said.

GUARDIAN newspaper reports earlier this month said Dumas, formerly high commissioner to Barbados, would replace retiring civil service head and permanent secretary to Robinson, Eugenio Moore. Dumas, considered one of the country's most high-powered representatives and negotiators abroad, has also served on teams seeking bilateral air service agreements and was head of a team which put together a report suggesting restructuring plans for the oversized public service. Dumas is expected to preisde over the service as government introduces its restructuring and trimming exercises.

"This (appointment) is unprecedented as you know and is an indication of the special importance that the government attaches to the reform of the public service," Robinson said.

FDN To Read Document at Salinas Inauguration

PA2811224188 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 24 Nov 88 p 5

[Excerpts] Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano, National Democratic Front [FDN] leader, said yesterday his political group will not stage any protest or cause any disruptions during the presidential inauguration "unless we are provoked." He also said the coordinators of the FDN political parties will read a document during the ceremony in which they will announce their intentions concerning the new administration. [passage omitted]

When questioned following a meeting of the FDN political commission at the Popular Socialist Party offices, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas explained that on 1 December, "We are not planning any scandalous behavior; therefore, our parliamentary coordinators will speak. In other words, we are only planning to read a document in which we will announce our position concerning the new government."

Cardenas Solorzano feels there should be no problem with the coordinators of the FDN legislators reading the document, because "there will be sufficient time within the session for reading." [passage omitted]

PRI Wins Municipal Elections in Campeche

PA2811195788 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0130 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Report by Javier Cervantes]

[Text] Mayoral elections were held Sunday in Campeche State in a climate of absolute peace, order, and social tranquillity.

The Campeche citizens began arriving at the 376 polling centers to exercise their civic duties at 0800 when the polls opened.

Candidates representing six political parties participated in these constitutional elections for municipal government positions in Campeche. The PRI nominated 67 candidates, while the coalition made up of the Popular Socialist Party, the Mexican Socialist Party, the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution, and the Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction Party nominated only 5 candidates, and the National Action Party nominated only 3.

Campeche Governor Abelardo Carrillo Savala said that the sovereign will of the people of Campeche will be fully respected by the various political groups as stated in the agreement signed prior to the elections.

Meanwhile, the state's electoral commission announced that according to preliminary results from the municipal elections in Campeche, the PRI obtained the majority of votes in the eight municipalities.

Officials Witness Seized Drugs Destruction

PA2811184888 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0130 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Summary] Attorney General Sergio Garcia Ramirez and National Defense Secretary General Juan Arevalo Gardoqui witnessed the destruction of 1,693 kg of cocaine and 7 kg of heroin at the Alvaro Obregon Military Camp. The drugs were discovered in Sonora and Durango States.

Gen Arevalo Gardoqui said that during the past 6 years, the Armed Forces have destroyed more than 12,000 kg of cocaine and 11 tons of marijuana.

Costa Rica

Madrigal Discusses Peace Plan, OAS Meetings

PA2811001588 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 20 Nov 88 p 4

[Interview with Foreign Affairs Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto by unidentified reporter; date and place not given]

[Text] [Reporter] Regarding the Costa Rican proposal to establish a verification commission on the Honduran borders with El Salvador and Nicaragua, we would like the foreign affairs minister to give us more details and to tell us how that commission would work.

[Madrigal] Because the Esquipulas plan originated in a Costa Rican proposal and because there is profound concern for improving our democracy a little bit each day, we wanted to put the peace plan in motion again.

In April, we had suggested ideas similar to this proposal; now we have submitted an improved proposal because the Latin American countries have been given a say in the matter through the participation of a member of the Group of Eight and because the nations of Latin America must unite if they want to solve their problems. Of course, one could not do without the input of the European countries which, given their detachment from the conflict, are not suspected of being biased toward any given side.

It would also be appropriate to have UN sponsorship and, now that a South American country will participate, perhaps OAS sponsorship, since this provides the proposal with a great deal of seriousness and helps in organizing the plan.

The countries chosen to form the commission will be in charge of establishing the procedures and work methodology to be followed. We are not talking about military forces, but rather civilian experts and eventually a military adviser, more because of his professionalism and his expertise than because he is a military man. They are the ones who will work in those troubled border zones.

[Reporter] Why do you think the proposal will be accepted?

[Madrigal] Because it practically includes all the necessary requirements to help the countries if they want to overcome the impasse. Each country chooses the guarantees or measures that defend its interests, and I have tried to balance the formula.

Subsequent speeches issued by the other countries have shown that they approve of and enthusiastically support the formula.

[Reporter] Why does Costa Rica not sponsor the reorganization of the OAS?

[Madrigal] Costa Rica has stated its concern about this, which was proved when we presented a proposal at the OAS Assembly concerning the role a reorganized OAS might play in a new Latin American dialogue.

The OAS must be reformed, but this cannot be done by just one country; it is a complex reform. Hence, Costa Rica suggested that an assembly be held later to analyze exclusively that topic—particularly now that the Cartagena protocol, which includes reforms to the OAS, has been approved and implemented.

We must wait some time to see how the OAS works with the Cartagena protocol before we make the necessary adjustments and, above all, discuss the OAS role as the forum for a new dialogue between Latin America, the United States, and other great centers of power that are being created in the world.

[Reporter] How would you characterize the new dialogue you propose?

[Madrigal] First, there must be no antagonism. The dialogue must be held based on the understanding that all the nations on our continent have to cooperate to attain progress.

The new dialogue will be the preamble for greater unity among Latin American nations and will serve to attain greater cultural links with the United States. It will also be a forum to solve political conflicts and find logical and suitable formulas to political, economic, and cultural issues.

These are the bases. I could add that modern societies require scientific and technological investments, and the United States can be an excellent guide in this field by giving unconditional donations. Moreover, regarding the foreign debt, the United States has a lot to say and a lot to do. As I said in my OAS speech, this geopolitical relationship with the United States is not unavoidable; it is, rather, very beneficial.

[Reporter] Why did all those at the OAS vote for Baena, who is a good politician but a very bad administrator and the one who has caused the financial and bureaucratic disorder at the OAS?

[Madrigal] We unanimously voted for Baena; there was no other candidate. We thought that if the OAS is being reorganized now, and there are promises to try to solve the economic problem, it was logical to maintain the organization in the hands of someone with experience so that these changes are implemented expeditiously and efficiently. Baena has worked for years with much effort.

[Reporter] Why is the Arias administration afraid to propose the revision of the inter-American legal instruments?

[Madrigal] We have no fear of proposing any revision to the legal instruments. On the contrary, we would propose it when it becomes necessary.

Regarding inter-American treaties, there is no fear to propose revisions. We just have not found the urgent need to do it.

Unfortunately, Costa Rica has little moral authority to propose and urgently demand revisions, because those treaties would have to be sent to the legislative assemblies to make them effective. What moral authority would Costa Rica have to demand this if the Legislative Assembly has not yet approved the Cartagena protocol, which other countries have already approved and implemented? Our parliament is still discussing it.

Costa Rica, which has strictly followed international laws, should have been one of the first nations to approve such a protocol, which would strengthen the OAS and provide it with a better structure.

[Reporter] Has the Central American presidents' summit definitely been called off?

[Madrigal] At the beginning, it was said the summit would be on 25-26 November. I had said this would not be possible—not because Costa Rica did not want it but because it was not feasible because of a number of circumstances. In sum, it will not be on that date.

Following my proposal at the OAS, which has been approved, there will be a foreign ministers meeting 29-30 November in Mexico. It is possible that we may draft an agenda for a presidential summit. In this task, we will consider the suggestions our Guatemalan counterparts are proposing for this meeting. We are certain these are issues of great interest, which we will carefully analyze.

Calderon Fournier Wins PUSC Primary

PA2811152288 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1228 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier was declared the presidential candidate of Costa Rica's Social Christian Unity Party [PUSC] last night. He won handily over his two opponents, Miguel Angel Rodriguez and Jose Jaen Garcia. Hundreds of Calderon's followers and leaders of his faction began meeting at the Senorial Hall at 1700 to hear the preliminary unofficial results. Later, the PUSC's electoral court confirmed the results. A climate of victory was visible at Calderon's headquarters throughout the night. His followers shouted, danced, sang, and leapt for joy for their victory.

Proclaimed presidential candidate Calderon Fournier said: Today's victory, which is the result of the drive, toil, and effort of many, is just the beginning in the great struggle to give Costa Rica a victory in February in 1990. Accompanied by his family, the candidate said that from now on everybody must rally around the same banner and principles within the PUSC. He invited the supporters of the other two factions to join the party and strive to win the next elections, and thus give Costa Rica what it deserves.

Noting there will not be any hard feelings, Calderon Fournier praised his chief opponent Miguel Angel Rodriguez. He said Rodriguez is a good politician and a hardworking opponent.

El Salvador

Rebels Attack Bus; 'Death Squad Victim' Found

PA2611192888 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0518 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 25 Nov (REUTER)—Urban guerrillas tonight attacked a bus in San Salvador, killing two soldiers and wounding a soldier and six passengers.

In another violent episode in San Salvador, three pedestrians were wounded when a bomb exploded and destroyed the garage door of a local mayor's house. Other reports say that another paramilitary death squad victim has been found in a ditch. [passage omitted]

Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) activist Daniel Antonio Rivera, mayor of Mejicanos, a San Salvador working-class district, blamed the ruling Christian Democratic Party for the bomb attack on his house, which occurred at the same time the bus was attacked.

Rivera told newsmen that three pedestrians were wounded in the blast. At the time the bomb was detonated, the right-wing leader was attending a meeting at his office, which is near his home and was the target of three attacks last month.

Some children searching for a lost football discovered a beheaded corpse in a ditch. The head had been placed at the feet of the body. This is the fourth victim of the death squads in the past few days. The unidentified corpse was naked and showed signs of torture.

The corpse was found in the suburb of San Ramon, a lower-class district whose National Guard garrison was attacked on 5 November by the FMLN.

A second corpse, also naked and showing signs of torture, was found on Friday on the road to La Libertad beach, some 15 km from this resort. According to witnesses, the victim had been shot in the mouth and his feet were bound.

Miguel Montenegro, a representative of the Human Rights Commission, a private organization, said the deaths of both victims seem to be the work of paramilitary groups. "Death-squad activities have increased to a terrifying extent, and the government does not seem able to exert any control over them," Montenegro added.

Bishop Appeals to Government

PA2711200588 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1712 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 27 Nov (DPA)—San Salvador Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez today asked the Duarte government "to do something about halting crimes by death squads," which this week claimed three lives.

Rosa Chavez told journalists as he left the cathedral after officiating mass: "In my homily I forgot to mention something very serious: the murders that, because of their characteristics, are suspected to have been committed by death squads." He also said there is strong suspicion that military personnel were involved in these crimes, "because the bodies were moved from the places where the victims were murdered." [passage omitted]

The auxiliary bishop said the church views these crimes with concern. He said the church makes a desperate appeal to the government to try to stop these crimes because they are typical of those committed by death squads. [passage omitted]

Rosa Chavez insisted that because the bodies have been moved, "at the very least, military authorities are suspected of complicity in the killings." Because of this, he issued an appeal to the Army to prevent a worsening of the situation. [passage omitted]

The bishop also condemned the attacks carried out this week, particularly attacks on soldiers guarding urban buses, stating that "even in war, no law in the world permits buses in which civilians are traveling to be shot up."

FMLN Commander Marisol Galindo Interviewed

PA2511234288 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Interview with FMLN Commander Marisol Galindo by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded; monitored in progress]

[Excerpt] [Reporter]...as the UN special investigator's report for El Salvador said. The number of Army's mass [word indistict] and selective murders has increased, and the church recently said the Army is not conducting a systematic campaign, but carrying out improvised actions. What is your opinion on the human rights situation and the church's comments?

[Galindo] Everybody knows that all groups, international organizations, and media have noticed an increase in human rights violations in El Salvador. They have also noticed that despite attempts to clean up its image and prove an alleged respect for human rights at international forums, Jose Napoleon Duarte's government has not succeeded in getting international organizations to recognize that alleged change presented by the regime. In fact, all groups and sections have been saying repression against the people's movements is one of the main components of the government's strategy and of the U.S. Government's counterinsurgency plan for El Salvador.

[Reporter] We are experiencing a social crisis and see how our present standard of living encourages our people to struggle. How do human rights violations affect our people's fighting spirit?

[Galindo] Up until 2 or 3 years ago, people said the genocide conducted against our people between 1979 and 1981, which includes the massacres of Sumpul, El Mozote, El Calabozo in San Vicente Department, and many others, was part of the regime's strategy to contain the social explosion caused by the misery and hunger in which our people have lived for decades.

In the last few years, however, we have witnessed the strengthening of the peoples movement. It has increased the range of its activities, the level of struggle, and the radicalism of its positions. The regime's repression has been unable to contain the the people's movement. Furthermore, our people have increased their level of struggle in response to the escalation of repression. Crimes, repression, and genocide, in fact, have increased our people's radicalism and violence.

[Reporter] The regime has deployed its forces against the peoples organizations, but the Salvadoran Foreign Ministry, the regime's [words indistinct] claims that repression is not as strong as it was in 1979 and 1980 when demonstrators were shot. It claims repression is not public in that way. There is very important data, however. The OAS Human Rights Commission report condemned the Salvadoran regime...[11-second break in reception] How can that report affect the regime's behavior?

[Galindo] A similar report was issued in 1979 and it precipitated the coup of that year, which proves that reports and resolutions by international organizations do exert pressure on governments and force them to be more careful in committing their crimes.

After the international condemnation you are referring to, however, the social insurgency kept growing until it reached the [word indistinct] of peoples insurgency and the attainment of power by the revolutionary forces and the people, who accompanied the struggle. To stop the revolutionary triumph at that time, the regime and the U.S. Government devised a strategy based on genocide. They wanted to stop the main force of the rebel movement, which was the peoples movement, the mass movement.

Subsequently, the regime tried to appear very civilized and made superficial changes. It presented statistics showing it no longer killed 1,500 or 800 people and it no longer conducted indiscriminate machinegun attacks on peaceful demonstrations. The regime, however, began committing its selective crimes. The new form of crime suited the level of struggle of the peoples movement at

the time. Now, after a long history of repression and peoples struggle, the rebirth of social insurgency, and again facing the peoples insurgency, the regime faces a very difficult problem. [passage omitted]

Duarte Veto of Electoral Reforms Overridden
PA2711184188 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 26 Nov 88 p 11

[Text] The Legislative Assembly last night overrode President Duarte's veto and approved, with 47 votes, the reforms of the Electoral Law. Duarte had vetoed the reforms because, he maintained, they were unconstitutional and would distort the duties of the Central Electoral Council [CCE] president.

The veto was overturned with votes from the MAC [Authentic Christian Movement], which surpassed the 40 needed to approve the reforms. All this was accompanied by protests from members of the PCN [National Conciliation Party] and the minority Christian Democratic Party, who could do nothing to dissuade the MAC and ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] representatives.

The meeting lasted until 2000, following a recess called at noon to discuss the veto. The political parties expressed their views on the bill in the afternoon. Juan Ramon Rosales of the MAC, Ernesto Oyarbide of the PAR [Renewal Action Party], a PPS [Salvadoran Popular Party] member, and a member of the MNR [National Revolutionary Movement] voiced their opinions.

Jose Francisco Guerrero, Lolita Henriquez, Rey Prendes, and other deputies justified the reforms, saying they will give more power to the CCE members. They added that the reforms contain other positive aspects, such as the elimination of doubtful or challenged votes, which are used to alter election results. From now on, there will be only two categories of votes: void or valid.

Chavez Says Europeans Concerned Over Elections
PA2611162088 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Christian Democratic presidential candidate Fidel Chavez Mena returned home this afternoon from his trip to Europe. He visited Brussels, Bonn, Madrid, and Paris and met with heads of state and professional and labor groups. In addition, he had a long talk with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican.

Upon his arrival, Chavez Mena said the common element in all his meetings was the European countries' concern that extremist parties might win the presidential election.

[Chavez] "European heads of state and top political, labor, and business figures with whom I had the chance to talk during my tour in Europe clearly conveyed their desire and intention to support a democratic political process in El Salvador. There is concern over the alternatives that the right-wing or left-wing totalitarian extremist groups might offer. The Europeans promote and endorse a democratic political process and a political alternative like ours.

"We clearly told them about our political ideas. We also told them El Salvador needs to continue receiving political support from West European countries as well as international technical cooperation. As you know, we need that aid urgently.

"The Europeans certainly feel a right-wing party in El Salvador would not be a choice that would consolidate democracy and achieve peace. Instead, it would heighten the conflict and create difficulties abroad."

Regarding the latest polls, which continue to give ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] a 5-percent lead, Chavez Mena said that lead can be overcome during the campaign.

[Chavez] "The polls taken by the Central American University once showed a wider gap. Now the gap has been narrowed. Other polls—one by the Gallup organization and the other by the Venezuelan group Conscience 21 [Consciencia 21]—indicated that we began the race on an equal footing. Approximately 45 to 48 percent of the people surveyed are undecided. We are going to work on this group. ARENA has severely narrowed its electoral base and plans, while we have been experiencing increasing support. There is no doubt we will win."

The PDC leader was welcomed this afternoon at El Salvador's international airport by people who had waited for him since early in the morning. Chavez Mena said that officials in all the European countries he visited expressed their firm intention to continue supporting the country's democratic system.

Guatemala

Government Claims ORPA Killed 21 Peasants
PA2911042288 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 28 Nov 88 p 5

[Text] Yesterday the government issued a communique blaming the rebel group ORPA [Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms] for killing 21 peasants in the village of El Aguacate, San Andres Itzapa, Chimaltenango Department.

The communique is addressed to international human rights organizations, the nations that have expressed support for the democratization process, national and international public opinion, and the Attorney General's Office for Human Rights.

The communique states that "under the aegis of the self-styled ORPA, forces opposed to the constitutional system kidnapped and later murdered 21 humble peasants of the village of El Aguacate in an unspeakable action that verges on the incredible and represents a complete mockery of the most elementary principles of humanity."

According to the official version, the events began on 22 November when Carlos Humberto Guerra Callejas, assistant to the military commissioner, disappeared after leaving the village to perform his usual duties in the field.

The bulletin adds that, upon realizing Guerra had disappeared, relatives and neighbors organized search parties that set out to look for him on 23 November. They previously reported the fact to the national police in Chimaltenango.

On 24 November, the search group that included evangelist pastor Antonio Olivares established contact with the terrorists. It was later joined by another group, which was held at gunpoint and overpowered by the outlaws, the government adds.

When the Guatemalan Army in Military Zone No 302, headquartered in Chimaltenango, learned about the mass kidnapping, it sent troops to El Aguacate, including a civilian affairs company, to comfort the panicky families of the kidnap victims. The bodies of the peasants were discovered in three makeshift mass graves near the village on 26 November, the communique adds.

"The government will in no way allow the progress that has been achieved during the past 3 years in the process to consolidate democracy and respect for the individual rights guaranteed by the Constitution to be ruined by isolated armed groups that, acting anonymously and by surprise, harm the population and the nation's interests.

In conclusion, the government states, "Therefore, the government demands the utmost condemnation of this unspeakable action from international organizations, the free nations of the world, local and international public opinion, and the Attorney General's Office for Human Rights."

The victims are: Francisco, Rodolfo, Pastor, Romualdo, Julio, Luis, Oscar, and Haroldio Callejas Tobar; Factor and Humberto Callejas Guerra; Juan Oswaldo Callejas; Horacio Tajtaj Callejas; Cristobal Chuy; Pedro Guerra; Isidoro Castellanos Guerra; Jose Leonel Callejas; Leonel Callejas Aspuac; Isidoro Guerra; Esteban Arenales; Carlos Humberto Guerra Callejas; and Antonio Olivares Ramos.

Honduras

Contras Reportedly Aiding Local Population

PA2811220288 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Interview with Francisco Hernandez of the coffee growers association in Trojes, El Paraiso, by Miriam Mercado; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mercado] In exchange for goods, the coffee growers are no longer demanding $15-million in compensation from the Reagan administration for damage done to 12,000 Hondurans by the contras in El Paraiso Department. Now the Honduran population is becoming familiar with the Nicaraguan occupation troops in El Paraiso. The coffee growers have asked for their help in building roads, and the contras are providing this help because the Honduran Government is not providing it. Francisco Hernandez, a coffee grower leader in Trojes, El Paraiso, has confirmed this.

[Hernandez] Good morning and greetings to all coffee growers attending the Juan Ramon Molinar 22d Coffee Growers Congress. Concerning your questions, I must say our relationship with the contra high command has been close, and we are aware of their situation. We are not against their being here; they are waging a war. We believe their struggle is a just one.

As a result of the lack of U.S. assistance, the contras are experiencing a very alarming situation; they are in a critical situation. We Hondurans have a soft heart, regardless. When the Sandinists were waging their struggle, we helped them. Now we are helping the contras, because we are all Central Americans.

The commanders are helping the villagers, who were once affected by the heavy clashes between the Sandinists and the contras that took place along the border. The coffee growers association in the area has asked for cooperation, at least in building the roads we need. We have been forgotten by the government authorities. There is an absolute lack of interest for this area.

[Mercado] How have you worked it out with the contras for repairing the roads?

[Hernandez] They have some maintenance equipment for transportating the humanitarian assistance being sent from the United States. This assistance continues to arrive, but in very limited amounts. They had begun to build the highway from Capire but were unable to complete it. A tractor was hired from private individuals to complete the road. The road being built runs from Capire to Arenales. The command has always been open to negotiations with the communities, but there has been some slight problems over their presence here; the villagers are afraid of a new attack or clash now, because it is harvest time.

[Mercado] Have these invading forces in Honduras notified you if they have any government plans for developing El Paraiso?

[Hernandez] The situation is as follows: They are in Honduras, but they do not control the territory. They are here with due authorization by the Armed Forces and the government. We support those who help us. They have a medical center and they help the Honduran population. When they have fuel, they lend us their equipment. We have no problems with them.

Nicaragua

Tinoco: Bush's Policy Causing Summit Delay

PA2711132388 Paris AFP in Spanish 1509 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Managua, 26 Nov (AFP)—U.S. President-elect George Bush's lack of a clear Central American policy is causing some Central American presidents to lose interest in holding a summit meeting to promote the Esquipulas II peace plan, Nicaraguan Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco said today.

The Central American summit, which aims to reactivate the peace process, has been postponed four times and a new date has not been set.

Tinoco said there are two views in Bush's camp regarding the Central American crisis. One calls for a negotiated political solution. The other sees negotiations as a "temporary fix" and prefers to "emphasize a military solution," the vice foreign minister said during a foreign policy seminar this weekend.

This latter option, he added, would be used to achieve a bipartisan consensus in the U.S. Congress, because the lack of such a consensus was one of the reasons that led to the failure of the Reagan administration's policy in Central America.

Whatever direction Bush takes, "the fact is that things appear to be heading toward negotiations, although it is not clear if this is a genuine intention or just for show," Tinoco said.

Nunez Comments on Future Relations With U.S.

PA2511194888 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1130 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Another Sandinist commander is sending signals to U.S. President-elect George Bush. Commander Carlos Nunez, president of the National Assembly, has said the Nicaraguan Government might establish harmonious relations with the new U.S. President, but he added that it was too soon to tell.

Commander Bayardo Arce was the first commander to make a statement on this issue. He asserted that the Nicaraguan Government would no longer criticize the U.S. Government if the latter stopped attacking Nicaragua. [passage indistinct]

H. Ortega on Truce, Honduran Border Incidents

PA2911041988 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Report on interview with Defense Minister Humberto Ortega by unidentified reporter following a ceremony marking Soldier of the Fatherland Day in Managua on 27 November]

[Excerpts] The EPS paid tribute to Nicaraguan soldiers by commemorating Soldier of the Fatherland Day today. The ceremony was held at the Carlos Aguero School. The EPS officers and troops who participated in the ceremony were led by General Humberto Ortega and the EPS General Staff. [passage omitted] After the ceremony, Gen Humberto Ortega spoke to the press. The defense minister referred to recent EPS maneuvers in the northwestern part of the country:

[Begin recording] [Ortega] The Honduran Army is on the other side of the border. The Honduran Army has abetted the imperialist plans against Nicaragua so far, and our soldiers must carry out operations based on the potential threat. This does not mean we have anything against the Hondurans; however, the exercises must reflect, as realistically as possible, what could happen.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] concerning an alleged break in the cease-fire by the contras?

[Ortega] From the beginning, the contras have never respected the cease-fire. They are constantly looking for excuses to break the cease-fire. We have been repelling their attacks on peasants, the civilian population, and some EPS units posted in remote areas in Regions 5 and 6 and along the Honduran border. We comply with the commitments made by President Ortega. We must be prepared, however, to answer any criminal attacks with force. The contras attacked a peasant community in El Guabo in Region 5. There were several dead, including contras. As you can see, we have been complying with our commitments. The contras, however, are hindering the operation of the verification commission, which should check on who is complying with the Sapoa agreements. [end recording]

EPS, Interior Ministry Actions Reported

Contras, Arms Caches Seized

PA2711214488 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 24 Nov 88 p 5

[Report by Emilio Miranda R.]

[Text] Juigalpa—A EPS Public Relations Office communique has reported actions perpetrated by Somozist mercenaries who are carrying out ambushes and crimes.

The bulletin reports that on 15 November, peasant Andres Leon was kidnapped in the La Esperanza port sector.

On the same day, contras Jesus Rocha and Alexis Morales surrendered their weapons in Las Pinuelas. The EPS seized a knapsack, a belt, and the rest of their equipment.

The EPS bulletin adds that on 17 November the EPS captured a contra and an arms cache in La Zarceta, El Almendro—where the EPS also seized an arms cache containing 2,000 rounds, 5 repair kits [componedores], a tape recorder, assorted medicine, and a radio receiver.

Contra Leader Reportedly Killed

PA2811172288 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Report by Auxiliadora Martinez from Region 5]

[Text] Comejen, a contra chief from the Jorge Salazar Regional Command No 2, was killed last weekend in the vicinity of Los Andes Hill, 5 km north of (Ponpua), during a joint action by EPS and the Interior Ministry [MININT]. Also killed in the same clash were mercenaries (Quinares), (Cano Negro), and (Chocoyo), while armed couriers Julio Alberto Hernandez Carcamo, Eric Aguilar Hernandez, (Manuel Enrique Villachica Fonseca), and Maximo Galeano Vargas—who were collaborating with the contra group—were captured.

The counterrevolutionaries were planning to ambush civilian vehicles on the main highway, announced Subcommander Fernando Caldera, MININT delegate to the 5th region, at a news conference.

Comejen, who was a mercenary leader, is the nom de guerre of Marlon Borje Ruiz, from Siuna. He joined the contras in 1983; his commander was (Piltrafa). From 1987 through 1988 Comejen led several actions such as ambushes, sabotages, murders, and thefts, in various parts of Chontales. MININT delegate Subcommander Caldera said it is necessary to continue carrying out plans and measures that will ensure the safety of the villagers. Maintaining order and public security is a moral responsibility and obligation.

A large quantity of ammunition, 6 M-79 grenade launchers, 6 M-79 grenades, explosives, boots, knapsacks, batteries, canteens, and other military materiel—with which they were committing their crimes against the peasants—were seized from the terrorist group.

IDB Approves Emergency Aid, Fishing Boat Loan

PA2511161288 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 23 Nov 88 p 4

[Summary] Paulo Romero, IDB representative in Managua, has reported that the organization has approved $200,000 in emergency aid for Nicaragua. The funds may be used to purchase construction materials or to meet other needs. The IDB has also approved a $30.7-million loan to purchase 59 shrimp-fishing boats, 40 of which have already been delivered. Romero added that 10 boats are expected soon, and the remaining 9 boats may be purchased in January 1989.

Further on Foreign Aid

PA2511231488 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 23 Nov 88 p 4

[Summary] The Nicaraguan National Emergency Committee [CNE] has reported that as of 19 November Nicaragua had received 3,881.09 metric tons of food and other disaster relief items to assist the victims of Hurricane Joan. The CNE added that this amount increased last week when ships arrived in Nicaragua with more aid.

The CNE reported that 878 metric tons of rice and 78.55 metric tons of cooking oil donated by Oxfam [UK-based international famine-relief organization] Belgium arrived in Nicaragua last week. Belgium also sent 1,382 metric tons of rice and 283.90 metric tons of beans. In addition, Cebemo [Catholic organization for joint financing of development programs] from the Netherlands sent 81.38 metric tons of cooking oil. The report adds that the Association for the Development of the Peoples sent 32.02 metric tons of cooking oil.

Ramirez Tours Hurricane-Damaged Atlantic Region

PA2611211788 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] A month after the destructive effects of Hurricane Joan were felt in the southern Atlantic autonomous region, residents in Bluefields, Corn Island, and El Bluff are rebuilding their towns, which are slowly returning to normal.

The sight is impressive in Bluefields, where the old, the young, women, and children are rebuilding their homes with the little they have left. Hammering is heard throughout town beginning very early in the morning. The marketplace is already back in business. Electricity has been partially restored and commercial activity in downtown Bluefields is returning to normal. The first steps taken by the government were aimed at restoring basic services such as water and electricity and the area's means of production.

Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado toured Bluefields, Corn Island, and El Bluff on Wednesday, 23 November, to evaluate with regional authorities the emergency situation, the support received from international relief organizations, and the distribution of donations. Vice President Ramirez—who was accompanied by Guerrilla Commander Lumberto Campbell, minister-delegate for Special Zone II in the South Atlantic autonomous region; Health Minister Dora Maria Tellez; Education Minister Fernando Cardenal; INSSBI [Social Security Institute] Director Reynaldo Antonio Tefel; and Managua Mayor Carlos Carrion—also visited (Pescasa)

and (Coopesnica), the largest lobster- and shrimp-processing plants in the area, which were almost completely destroyed by the hurricane. Thanks to the efforts of the employees of these enterprises, however, full operations should resume by March 1989.

The government delegation witnessed the community spirit in the southern Atlantic autonomous region and the residents' desire to rebuild their homes as soon as possible and to engage in productive activities. It is important to note the serious ecological damage caused by the hurricane. In Corn Island, for example, thousands of hectares of forests were destroyed. This will have a negative effect on the region's flora and fauna.

In Bluefields, Vice President Ramirez met with San Mateo and Nueva York neighborhood residents, who talked about the problems they faced in the rebuilding of their homes. At the meeting, several residents complained that Sandinist Defense Committee members keep the best donations for themselves and that there are supply problems resulting in residents receiving less than they should. Dr Ramirez responded to the San Mateo residents by telling them that accusations cannot be made without evidence and that it is necessary to have evidence to accuse a comrade. Now that houses are down, he said, we need to trust and support each other. We should not sow unrest, and we should avoid quarrels, otherwise we will achieve nothing. He pointed out that in view of the disaster, donations received by the Nicaraguan Government have been minimal and that we must not wait for everything to come from abroad. He called on Bluefields residents not to listen to the campaign mounted by U.S. imperialism, which maintains that donations should not be sent to Nicaragua because the government steals them. This is a revolutionary government. We guarantee you that every single grain or bean that arrives in Nicaragua will be delivered to those needing it the most. This is the policy the revolution has set, Ramirez said.

In view of the problems faced by the residents due to a lack of zinc and wood, Vice President Ramirez announced that in the next few days a ship loaded with zinc, donated by the Swedish Ecumenical Council (Diaconia), will arrive in Bluefields. As for the lack of wood for the reconstruction of houses, Ramirez promised to send chain saws so that Bluefields residents could organize work brigades to gather wood. Those who are able to pay for the wood and zinc will have to do so, so those who are unable to pay can also obtain supplies, Ramirez said.

The government delegation also visited the Sandino regional hospital, where they saw the medical facility operating almost normally and where they learned that no outbreak of disease has been reported. Vice President Ramirez handed out awards to 395 workers who did an outstanding job before, during, and after Hurricane Joan in performing rescue and evacuation operations, saving many lives in the process.

Government Announces Increased Fuel Prices

PA2611023088 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] An increase in fuel prices of up to 65.2 percent was announced at a news conference yesterday by General Director of Hydrocarbons Ricardo Melendez. He said the prices of oil by-products have risen since yesterday. Therefore, gasoline will now cost 1,900 cordobas per gallon, diesel 1,380 cordobas per gallon, and kerosene 1,250 cordobas per gallon.

Melendez also announced new prices for liquid gas: A 100-lb container will cost 9,200 cordobas; a 25-lb container 2,300 cordobas; and a 10-lb container 920 cordobas. Melendez also announced there will be no restrictions on the sale of gasoline; therefore, consumers may purchase it without having to use coupons.

Economic Problems Fuel Population 'Exodus'

PA2711012488 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1727 GMT 26 Nov 88

[By Andreu Claret Serra]

[Excerpts] Managua, 26 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—A top administration official in Managua has stated that the collapse of the Nicaraguan economy, made worse by Hurricane Joan, will prompt the exodus of more than 150,000 citizens.

This means that in the year 1988 the number of people who will have left the country will equal the number who left during the first 8 years of the regime.

The exodus, involving 1 in every 23 Nicaraguans in 1988, has increased dramatically after Hurricane Joan. The hurricane affected the already battered Nicaraguan economy to the extent that Foreign Cooperation Minister Henry Ruiz recently predicted a 25-percent drop in the country's production for this year.

Travel agencies are the only bustling offices in Managua. Dozens of fathers crowd one of these agencies, "La Atlantida," showing dollars bought on the "black market" to send at least their children and wives to the United States or Canada. [passage omitted]

Bus companies that travel to Guatemala—the only country that does not require a visa—are another of the few prosperous businesses in Managua. The manager of one said "all tickets are sold until March." [passage omitted]

After the hurricane hit Nicaragua, regime leaders admitted the extreme seriousness of the economic situation and explained that the international aid received is barely enough to feed the enormous number of people who are depending on it in the next few weeks.

Observers, even those closest to the regime, admit that the government and the nine commanders of the FSLN National Directorate who run the country seem disconcerted by the magnitude of the crisis.

The $800 million or more in losses caused by Hurricane Joan have destroyed an economy described simply by some as "nonexistent," following 8 years of war, 4 years of U.S. blockades and embargoes, and government planning that the Sandinists now acknowledge as mistaken.

"We are in really bad shape," said a minister who believes the time has come to negotiate a solution to the crisis with the United States. Diplomats of various countries who are in close contact with Nicaraguan leaders said in Managua that this feeling is shared by President Daniel Ortega and most of the nine commanders.

Panama

Civic Crusade 'Satisfied' With Unity Plan

PA2511134988 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Communique issued by the National Civic Crusade; date and place not given]

[Text] The National Civic Crusade, an organization that since 9 July 1987 has represented the desire of the great majority of the Panamanian people to establish a true, dignified, and honest de jure state, is satisfied with the political agreement that several party representatives signed on 23 November.

The document reflects the effort to form a transitional national unity government, since this constitutes a peaceful solution to the serious national crisis.

For the National Civic Crusade, the formation of this transitional national unity government will be the greatest recognition of the Panamanian people's enormous sacrifice to rescue the nation. This transitional government is essential for laying a sound foundation for the full democratization of the country. This government cannot and should not be regarded as the sum of the various political parties that compose it. This government must be one of broad participation, based on a patriotic desire to institutionalize, democratize, and legitimize all of the state institutions and services with a great sense of sacrifice which the political, social, and economic reconstruction of our beloved homeland demands. This reconstruction will be undertaken by honest, able, and determined men willing to work for and on behalf of Panama without personal ambition or political party attachments, which the country cannot abide under the present circumstances.

For this to take place, it is essential that the armed forces understand their professional and political role and respect the constitutional rights of all Panamanians. The armed forces must understand the need for all state services to be autonomous. Under legal civilian authorities, the armed forces can become true guardians of national sovereignty and the lives, honor, and property of all Panamanians.

We are confident that this peaceful solution can be realized, all citizens' rights can be restored, human rights can be respected, and the principles that inspired and continue to inspire our peaceful struggle can be applied.

Democracy, justice, freedom, and honesty.

CRITICA Ridicules Document

PA2711192588 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 25 Nov 88 p 4

["Political Coliseum" column by Baltazar Renan Aizpurua: "Tony Noriega's Candidacy Causes Panic"]

[Text] The Panamanian opposition political parties yesterday released what they called "a document for political unity" in which they reiterate the well-known seditious chant of joining efforts to form a provisional national unity government.

Of all those who signed the document, only three legally represent political parties registered in accordance to our laws. The rest of them—Carlos Rodriguez and Jorge Pacifico Adames of the Authentic Panamenist Party and a certain Roderick Esquivel [deposed vice president], again in a traitorous embrace with Eric "Tuturo" Delvalle—do not represent anyone, unless one regards them as agents at the service of a foreign power.

They hypocritically talk about the hunger and unemployment the Panamanian people are experiencing, while the entire world knows that one of the signatories of that document gave an excuse to the United States to freeze Panamanian funds in U.S. banks and to impose criminal economic sanctions against our country. What they do not say is that, in their determination to surrender Panama to the voracious imperialists, they also facilitate the ruination of many Panamanian businessmen who naively believe the masses would support their ambitions for power.

With what moral authority do those turncoats dare talk about morality, justice, freedom, reconstruction, and national reconciliation if they insist on being servants of the United States by stating conditions such as the immediate retirement of General Manuel Antonio Noriega? The truth is that Carlos Rodriguez, Adames, Arias Calderon [president of the Christian Democratic Party], Esquivel, Delvalle, Ramirez [leader of the Nationalist Liberal Republican Alliance], and Escalona [Liberal Party president] want to ignore the fact that, despite the Yankee support they received, they have been defeated and have been unable to break the alliance between the people and the Panama Defense Forces [FDP].

There is something even more serious in this matter. The aforementioned document is a call for illegal action and for overthrowing the country's constitutional leaders. It says the opposition is getting ready to plan truly free and honest elections with "the indispensable financial support such a process requires."

In other words, if the opposition assumes power through a "provisional government," their Yankee financial backers would then corrupt Panamanian consciences the same way this political clique, which now calls for political unity, was corrupted until October 1968.

Another thing that those who have tried to destroy the nation do not want to reveal is that they are panicking over the possibility of Tony Noriega's candidacy; they know that the vast majority of Panamanians will never follow the path of betrayal the opposition has been following for such a long time. The truth behind all their "last desperate efforts"—in which they even offer to respect the FDP as an institution, as if our military men were stupid—is that they know that in free elections they would be buried under a landslide of votes, because in this sacred land most Panamanians are patriots.

PRD Challenges Opposition to Elections

PA2711202488 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] The Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] today held a regional congress in Panama Province's western area, which includes Chorrera, Capira, Chame, San Carlos, and Arraijan. Attending the congress were PRD President Carlos Duque Jaen, PRD Vice President Carlos Ozores, and PRD Secretary General Darisnel Espino. Espino said the party's political rebuilding is done in unity and in keeping with the Torrijist guidelines that will lead the Panamanian people toward the year 2000. Espino said that the party will be united in the 1989 elections and that the PRD will win because it will have a presidential candidate who is a Torrijist, a nationalist, and a PRD follower.

Addressing the crowd, PRD President Carlos Duque Jaen said:

[Begin recording] Let the opposition try to win power on 7 May; let them face the PRD. [applause] We will be waiting for them. [applause] We take advantage of this gathering to send the opposition parties a message: Enter the elections so you cannot cry foul afterward, because you are going to suffer the most spectacular defeat ever in the country's political history. [applause] We are not going to hand over power, because we have already won. They have to come out and try to defeat us! If they think they have the votes, let them get them, but not with communiques! Thank you. [applause] [end recording]

Ritter on OAS Meeting, Relations With USSR

PA2511170788 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Nov 88

[News conference by Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter with unidentified reporters; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ritter] At the recent OAS meeting, Panama successfully presented its position and clearly reported on the country's current situation. Those in attendance listened to the U.S. representative's response and Panamanian Ambassador Aquilino Boyd's reply.

In this particular instance, Panama introduced no proposal for a resolution but, like other countries, simply set forth its position. The meeting ended with some OAS resolutions on Panama Canal tolls. Several resolutions were issued condemning the human rights situation in several countries other than Panama, which was not mentioned. We are fully satisfied with the outcome of the meeting.

[Reporter] How could diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union benefit Panama?

[Ritter] I will answer your question, but I do not want my reply to be construed to mean that relations with the Soviet Union are to be established soon. I think Panama profits from its relations with all countries. Panama profits from selling its products to other than traditional markets. Panama profits from the fact that more and more countries have adhered to the canal neutrality treaty. The more countries Panama has relations with, the more canal neutrality is assured. We must convince ourselves that, considering Panama's geographic and strategic location, the only way to preserve the country's neutrality and prevent it from becoming the object of hegemonic ambitions by other nations is to have relations with all countries of the world. This is why I think relations, not only with the Soviet Union but with all countries of the world, are useful.

In addition, you have not heard a single word or communique by the Foreign Ministry or the Presidency related to trips to the Soviet Union or contacts and interviews with Soviet officials. This is because diplomacy acts with a certain reserve and often quietly. We have quietly established relations with many countries.

In addition, and as I have pointed out at other times, two countries that intend to establish relations with one another do not announce their plans until a date for the formalization of their relations has been agreed upon. Countries just do not publicize their plans beforehand. Consequently, the rumors that we have requested these relations but that the Soviet Union has kept silent on this are completely false. Neither the Panamanian nor the Soviet Government have said a word on this.

Commentator on Opposition-U.S. Embassy Links
PA2411144788 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Nov 88

["Today in the World" commentary by Luis Manuel Martinez]

[Text] I have in my hands pictures of representatives of all the Panamanian opposition parties who participated in a meeting at the Electoral Tribunal, presided over by Magistrate Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez.

The boys are slowly heading in the right direction. They are already attending meetings at the Electoral Tribunal to get information about the polls, the voter lists, and other details of the electoral code. The boys are changing their stand. They know what the truth is and how to fulfill their political aspirations for the next 5 years.

But today's topic is: Will we have Christmas? We will have our Christmas. Disturbing rumors spread by telephone from Miami and Washington are circulating in Panama. Panamanians in exile, who are said to be many... [changes thought] I believe there are no more than 30 people who can carry a rifle among them, because who can believe that Roberto Eisenmann, Mayin Correa, or Tristan Solarte [Panamanian journalist, real name is Guillermo Sanchez Borbon] can carry a rifle and charge off a landing craft early in the morning to occupy a military installation?

All that is a myth. It is a new destabilizing trick to create panic right before Christmas and the New Year. According to the rumors, the U.S. Administration wants to eliminate the Panamanian Government to clean the way for George Bush, Reagan's successor.

Today's MEDIODIA published a picture of U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis warmly embracing Jorge Pacifico Adames [president of the opposition Authentic Panamenist Party]. Adames said his party will fight, will win the elections, and will be in power for 20 years. After checking Adames' biography, we concluded he must be faithful to his middle name ["Pacifico" means "peaceful"]. He must be a peaceful man, because when one is 72 years old, one is in no condition to participate in military, terrorist, or guerrilla adventures.

All that has its laughable side. This bunch of old men, who have spent years belching out insults and speaking about a democratic regime they have never served, now decided to talk about war and struggle in Panama. The ones leading that war, however, are people unfit for any kind of action.

The Panamanian Christian Democratic Party [PDC] added fuel to the fire at the end of its meeting held recently, I think 2 days ago. The Christian Democrats said they have no problems with the gringos and no disagreements or frictions with the United States. They said their problem is with the Panama Defense Forces and General Noriega.

That is very interesting, because both former Venezuelan Presidents Rafael Caldera and Luis Herrera Campin, leaders of the Latin American Christian Democratic movement, repeatedly say the PDC is making the mistake of wanting to reach power without the support of the Armed Forces. Mr Caldera, who enjoys his share of prestige, nas told the PDC that no good can come from fighting the military men. He says one may govern without them, but never against them.

Mr Ricardo Arias Calderon [PDC president] pays no attention to them. For that reason, we must emphatically tell Mr Arthur Davis that his provocations only have one effect: He must leave Panama. The Legislative Assembly already has demanded that. He has all but been declared persona non grata. He has reached the end. It is impossible to expect an independent country to tolerate an ambassador who attends opposition political meetings, congratulates its speakers, and encourages their radical positions. Those actions violate diplomatic relations and international law.

We repeat today's topic to Arthur Davis, John Maisto, the poor boys who punctually cash their CIA checks in Miami, and all those who dance to the tune of the dollar and against Panama's future: We will have Christmas and Mother's Day this year, and we will await the New Year with the joy, peace, love, and understanding that characterize Panamanians. Do not try to make us feel afraid, because we left all fear behind a long time ago.

U.S. Ambassador's Behavior Criticized
PA2611222888 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 26 Nov 88 p 5

[From the "Scoops" column]

[Text] The scandalous laughter of a charlatan called Arthur Davis [U.S. ambassador to Panama] will soon turn into a grimace. His recent burst of laughter while speaking on Panama was nothing more than a show of disrespect and contempt, which is far from the proper attitude of a diplomat. Even the foreign reporters have censured him. If he doubts it, let him ask.

Columnist on Alleged U.S. 'Secret Document'
PA2811173388 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 27 Nov 88 p 6-A

["Vox Populi" column by Luis Restrepo: "Revealing Document"]

[Text] I received a summary of a secret document entitled "U.S. Strategy for the Next 20 Years," published in the Argentine magazine PULSO and reproduced by the Cuban magazine "PRIMAS" in its November edition.

Panamanians should realize that this document, unknown in Panama, is the result of an in-depth study conducted at the request of former U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger to establish the guidelines of U.S. foreign policy until the first years of the 21st century.

Fred Ikle, one of Weinberger's most outstanding aides, was appointed president of the commission, which included other reknown U.S. personalities such as Henry Kissinger, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Andrew Goodpaster; CIA experts; members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the National Security Council; presidential advisers; and representatives of the main enterprises in the military-industrial complex.

In analyzing the document, one realizes it is indeed a real springboard for launching "an overall aggressive and more acute and discriminate offensive."

It says that "the United States finds it increasingly difficult and politically costly to maintain military bases in the Third World. Many of our friends in those countries are becoming vulnerable to nationalistic accusations that they are surrendering their sovereignty if they accept our proposals."

The report says the United States understands that "the 1979 Panama Canal Treaties and ratifying documents specify that all U.S. bases in the area must be closed by the year 1999."

It adds that although the treaties previewed a renegotiation, "there is no certainty as to whether we will continue having fundamental support in that country."

The report says that to solve the Panamanian situation, "the United States will not only need Department of Defense [DOD] personnel and weapons to fight in areas where there are tall buildings; it will also need support from diplomats, information specialists, agricultural chemists, bankers and economists, hydrologists, criminologists, meteorologists, and a dozen more professionals."

As we know, they found bankers in Panama who collaborated in destabilizing the banking system. The U.S. Embassy in Panama became a center where rumors originated, and it has given asylum to terrorists disguised as diplomats who openly participated in political activities that distorted Panama's image in an attempt to isolate our country. The U.S. Embassy has maintained a campaign of accusations and virulent lies against Panama.

DOD specialized battalions have carried out a campaign of provocations against Panamanian civilians. However, our people have replied with serenity and have not fallen in the traps, which has bewildered the enemy. It is important to note that both the Santa Fe document and the Ikle commission's report state that "the neutralization or elimination of nationalist leaders is essential for U.S. interests."

Therefore, when General Manuel Antonio Noriega assumed Panama's nationalistic leadership, a campaign of accusations was unleashed against him to the extent of proposing his abduction and transfer to the United States, where he would be severely judged.

Out of frustration, one can expect the aggression to become more violent, because now, throughout the country, through hills and mountains, valleys and rivers, from one city to the next, from village to village, from town to town, on roads and trails, we can hear the echo of the people's cry: Noriega for President!

As I said before, the Santa Fe document upheld what this document now presents. In reference to nationalist leaders such as Gen Noriega, it says: "That trend could endanger U.S. control over the Panama Canal after the year 2000...."

During their recent meeting in Rio Hato, the lieutenants of the Panama Defense Forces gave an appropriate reply to U.S. maneuvers: We will defend the homeland with the rifles the people have given us!

Archbishop Views Imposition of U.S. Sanctions

PA2511132088 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Report on remarks by Archbishop Marcos Gregorio McGrath in San Salvador; date not given]

[Text] Panamanian Archbishop Marcos Gregorio McGrath has said that the situation that prevails in his country is chaotic from both the economic and political standpoint.

[Begin McGrath recording] Our stance primarily endorses upholding the rights of a nation. We have witnessed, regretted, and denounced the U.S. economic sanctions. The U.S. Government obviously thought that by taking these measures, General Manuel Antonio Noriega would fall within a few days, but we have already weathered 9 months in this situation. The economic and social consequences are very serious, as I said. No one has the right to unilaterally impose economic sanctions.

We must say, however, that the Panamanian Government has used this as an excuse for its own mistakes. [end recording]

Columnist Denounces 'Diabolical' Zonian Plan

PA2711015888 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 25 Nov 88 p 5

["Vox Populi" column by Luis Restrepo: "A Diabolical Plan"]

[Text] This Monday, the newspaper CRITICA published a report on the diabolical plan prepared by the U.S. majority in the Panama Canal Commission's Directorate Board. Their ultimate goal is to use the surplus of the Panama Canal Commission's budget for expenses that are not approved by the current Panama Canal Treaties.

The disinformation campaign launched by the United States against Panama includes spreading the rumor that "the prevailing conditions in Panama threaten the lives of 'zonian' employees' relatives and, given the situation, they must be temporarily relocated in the United States."

The cost of this operation is extremely high, based on what we have learned from the preliminary published figures. The reports indicate that "the figures may increase as the cost of living is increasing in the United States."

Panamanians would not mind if the expenses implied by this diabolical measure were paid by the U.S. Treasury, because the United States can use its money as it sees fit—from the purchase of drugs to all-expenses-paid trips.

However, it turns out that those millions of dollars will be paid by stealing money belonging to the Panamanian people. The Panama Canal Treaties specify that the surplus in the Panama Canal Commission's budget will be turned over to the Republic of Panama. This has never happened because of the U.S. Government policy of investing considerable amounts of that surplus in increasing the zonians' benefits. The zonians' housing, electricity, potable water, subsidies for trips to the United States, salary increases, construction of exclusive beaches, and many other expenses are not included in the Panama Canal Treaties.

All this has been carried out with the cooperation of the Panama Canal Commission's U.S. administrator, the U.S. majority on the Panama Canal Commission, plus the instigation of Gianelli and Rhode—whose hate for our country is expressed in many ways.

This column has denounced Gianelli's intentions since May. The Foreign Ministry did little to prevent it. Some sort of action is expected from the Foreign Ministry since the money belonging to Panama is being stolen, but there is no official statement on the issue. Not responding immediately to the aggression by denouncing the Panama Canal Treaty violation has allowed the aggressor to destabilize our country with impunity and present a distorted view of Panama to the world. According to the United States' disinformation strategy, "Panama is not qualified to administer the Panama Canal so it should not be turned over to the Panamanians."

Report Examines Trade Links With USSR

PA2411041888 [Editorial Report] Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish at 2300 on 22 November carries a 15-minute report on possible trade relations between Panama and the USSR. The report begins with Luther Thomas, member of the People's Party politburo, saying he finds "it hard to understand why Panama, a nonaligned country, has not yet established relations with the Soviet Union." Thomas adds: "We have waited for this step and welcome it as a historic and important step that reaffirms Panama's independence."

Nevertheless, Legislator Tomas Gabriel Duque was noncommittal on the subject. He said: "I would say neither yes nor no. I say that because we would have to analyze the advantages of trade relations with the USSR. From a political standpoint, this is what happens in countries where the United States is applying pressure, as it is doing," in Panama. He mentions that Costa Rica and Colombia have relations with the USSR.

An unidentified station announcer then adds: "The influence of this socialist country in Panama is becoming more pronounced." Another announcer lists Soviet offices operating in the country, "although there are no direct diplomatic relations," between the two countries. For example, the USSR Merchant Marine Trade Office [Oficina de la Marina Comercial de la Union Sovietica] has offices here. The reporter cites Soviet official (Vladimir Savenko) listing all the activities carried out by his office, which include "helping Soviet cargo vessels going to Cristobal Port." Moreover, the office serves as liaison for all Soviet vessels transiting the Panama Canal.

Aeroflot also has offices in the country, the reporter notes, and he cites an unidentified Aeroflot spokesman on the office's functions here, such as "paying Panama for use of its airspace by Soviet airplanes and coordinating changes of Soviet sailors." The reporter points out a local car dealership, Automundo Inc., which sells Lada cars, as an example of the Soviet presence in the country. In addition, NOVOSTI and TASS news agencies have been operating in the country "for years," he said.

In the field of culture, Soviet books about a wide range of subjects "are available in Panama's libraries," he notes. The reporter says the "possibility of diplomatic relations between Panama and the USSR is growing stronger" because of the irregularity of relations with the United States. He also credits Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of perestroyka for this development.

The report continues with recorded comments by NOVOSTI correspondent (Mikhail Blazhenkov) on perestroyka. "In strictly economic terms, perestroyka means greater economic activity, for everyone's benefit, based on the new international economic order. This calls for relations based on equality." Concluding, (Blazhenkov) notes: "Panama, as part of the international community, can benefit from that process. We too benefit from more extensive relations with all the peoples of the world."

The report concludes by noting that the local business community is "wary" of those relations, because they think "of the spectre of communism." On this matter businessman Abelardo Carles says future Panamanian commerce "must seek to diversify and expand its markets. We must now seek new alternatives." In conclusion, Carles states that many businessmen who support change in the country's economic policies "have recommended a more diversified and much more equal foreign trade."

Relations With Socialist Nations 'Beneficial'
PA2511202088 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 25 Nov 88 p 4

[Editorial: Relations of Mutual Benefit and Respect"]

[Text] Our Dignity [Foreign] Minister, Jorge Eduardo Ritter, announced that the necessary steps are being taken to establish mutually beneficial and respectful relations with two great socialist nations; however, he did not provide the names of these nations for the Foreign Ministry's own reasons.

In 1945, the Panamanian National Assembly proposed establishing relations with socialist countries, specifically with the USSR during World War II. This resolution was approved by the National Assembly by an absolute majority and has never been annulled. During those historical days, the name of the "gentleman of politics," Mr Francisco Arias Paredes, was mentioned as the only candidate for the post of first Panamanian ambassador to Moscow. Later on, because of the so-called cold war, the Berlin blockade, and the rising U.S. McCarthyist repression, the Panamanian bourgeoisie panicked and the resolution ended up in File Seven (the file of oblivion).

We are now in a truly independent and more dignified position. Moreover, our dollars have been confiscated (they are our dollars because we Panamanians worked for them both inside and outside the canal area). The mutually beneficial nature of these relations [with socialist nations] is obvious. This opening of relations to these unnamed socialist countries should not be viewed as a desperate action but rather as an inherent and sovereign right that should be respected. Let us learn from General Jose Antonio Remon Cantera, who as Panamanian president in 1953 established diplomatic relations with Poland, Yugoslavia, and Hungary.

1989 Government Budget 50 Percent Lower
PA2511192188 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 23 Nov 88 pp A-1, B-6

[By James Aparicio]

[Text] Rigoberto Paredes, president of the Legislative Assembly's Budget Commission, told LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA yesterday that the country's general budget for 1989 will be 50 percent lower than the 1988 budget.

The new budget will be between 996 million and 1.2 billion balboas. Paredes also told LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA that the draft of the 1989 budget has already been submitted to the Legislative Assembly for approval and that the first debate should begin in December.

Throughout 1988, the state operated with the same budget approved for 1987, approximately $3 billion, since the 1988 budget was rejected because it failed to provide a balance between the country's revenues and expenditures.

"We have a budget that is practically 50 percent lower than the 1987 budget," Paredes said, adding: "We are working with a budget that is used mainly to cover the government payroll."

Approximately 125,000 public employees account for 64 million balboas a month in wages. The balance will be used for investments, which will be restricted to medical institutions and the Health and Education Ministries.

Rigoberto Paredes said that fiscal revenues will not exceed those recorded in 1988, which declined by 40 percent compared to 1987. However, the government official stressed that new adjustment measures are being studied, including the possibility of trimming the salaries paid to high-ranking government officials.

"We do not approve of a massive reduction in personnel," Paredes said. He described this issue as "touchy," and added that the final decision will be up to the Executive Branch.

The heads of the Finance Ministry, Cemento Bayano, and the IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] have been summoned to appear before the Legislative Assembly tomorrow. Representatives of the Defense Forces are also expected to appear before the parliament on 3 December.

Economic Decline, Higher Unemployment Cited
PA2511175088 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 23 Nov 88

[By Juan Carlos Duque]

[Summary] The results of a third economic survey carried out by the Center for Economic Studies of the Panamanian Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture shows that Panama's economy has stabilized at approximately 50 percent of its normal activity level. The survey shows that the employment rate for July and August dropped 22.3 percent when compared to the same period in 1987.

Approximately 450 businesses were surveyed by the Center for Economic Studies, of which only 40 percent hope to survive a 12-month period that began in August 1988; 20 percent will not be operating by 1989; 20 percent will close within the first few months of 1989; and 20 percent expect to remain open through July 1989. The banking and finance sectors have been the most affected by the economic crisis. The finance companies

have reduced their operations by 68 percent while banks and insurance companies are operating at levels approximately 20 percent below the levels reported in July and August 1987.

Exceptions to New Banking Guidelines Reported
PA2511174888 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Statement by Rafael Arosemena, general manager of the Panama National Bank; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] The Panama National Bank and the National Savings Fund have been excluded from the recently announced relaxation of banking restrictions for obvious reasons. As the people already know, 44 percent of the National Bank's funds are currently frozen in four New York banks. As long as this situation persists, it will be very difficult for the National Bank to operate as freely as other banks are operating.

From the banking viewpoint and as a member of the National Banking Commission, I feel that the banking system must be made more flexible and the banks should begin releasing a greater percentage of the funds being held. I am sure that in early January the National Bank will be operating at the same level as the other banks and under the same National Banking Commission guidelines.

Ambassador Resigns, Returns for Elections
PA2711214588 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 26 Nov 88 p A-4

[Text] It has been announced that Marcel Salamin has resigned as Panamanian ambassador to Caracas, Venezuela, and that he was not dismissed, as was previously reported. Salamin announced he will return to the country in late December to participate, beginning in January, in the electoral campaign. Several names are being mentioned to replace him, among them Humberto Lopez Tirone.

Cuba Planning To Open Consulate in Colon
PA2611170988 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 24 Nov 88 p 2

[Text] Local diplomatic sources have recently noticed the activities carried out by Cuban diplomatic personnel in Colon. Cuba plans to open a consulate in that city.

Even though the Cuban Embassy in Panama City does not usually give details regarding its operations in Panama, it is understood that the Panamanian authorities have no objection [to the opening of this new consulate].

[Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish provides the following one-sentence comment on the opening of a Cuban consulate in Colon in the "Rapid Fire" column (page 5) of its 25 November edition: "The opening of the Cuban Consulate in Colon suggests that Cuba-Panama trade will increase"]

New Ambassador to Libya Appointed
PA2511231888 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 24 Nov 88 p 28

[Summary] The executive branch has appointed the well-known writer and poet Alvaro Menendez Franco as Panama's ambassador to Libya.

New National Information System Coordinator
PA2511192488 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 23 Nov 88 p 2

[Summary] The Executive Branch has appointed Danilo Caballero as the new general coordinator of the National Information System (SNI). Caballero will also continue as director of Radio Nacional.

Government Burns Drugs; U.S. Officials Absent
PA2511234788 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2108 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Panama City, 25 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian antidrug authorities today burned 1.61 tons of drugs worth approximately $62 million on the international market.

Jose Bal, secretary general of the attorney general's Specialized Secretariat for Drug-Related Crimes, told ACAN-EFE that they destroyed 1,529 kg of cocaine worth more than $61 million on the international wholesale market and four times that on the street.

In addition, 4 kg of heroin were burned, worth $640,000; 74 kg of marijuana; and 7 grams of "crack," which, according to Bal, is made by mixing cocaine and bicarbonate of soda.

The drugs, which had been stored at a Panama Defense Forces warehouse, had been confiscated "during the course of the year," according to Bal, and were destroyed near the Air Force airport about 30 km from the capital.

Bal said that unlike other years, no U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency officers or other U.S. Government officials that work in drug repression attended the incineration, despite being invited.

Health Ministry Issues Meningitis Warning

PA2711040188 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Excerpt] This afternoon the General Health Directorate, headed by Dr Orlando N. Allen M., reported an increase in strain B meningococcal cases, for which there is no vaccine.

The Health Ministry communique reads as follows: The Health Ministry, in keeping with its permanent task of caring for the community's health, reports that it has detected an increase in cases of the meningococcal disease and that strain B prevails at present. This is the first strain-B epidemic registered in Panama. There is no vaccine for this disease.

The communique adds that this disease has always appeared in our country and generally affects children under 5 years old. The disease is now spreading to teenagers, so the Health Ministry has alerted its monitoring system and the entire health team to provide timely and appropriate assistance to the community. [passage omitted]

Argentina

Brazil's Sarney Arrives for Official Visit

PY2811215488 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2137 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Nov (TELAM)—Brazilian President Jose Sarney arrived in Argentina at 1831 today for a 3-day official visit. The Brazilian president was received by President Raul Alfonsin at the metropolitan airport.

Sarney and his entourage of ministers and governors were greeted with a 21-gun salute.

Argentine ministers and legislators were also at the airport to receive the Brazilian president.

Caputo Views Integration Effort With Brazil

PY2911021288 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Interview with Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Caputo] After the first stage, which we have completed in the past 2 years, and after the signing of the protocols, which allowed us to take the first concrete steps in the Argentine-Brazilian integration effort, we will now take a very important step, both from a legal and a political viewpoint. In fact, we will sign an integration treaty.

I hope this will be clear to everyone. In the past we worked under the terms of specific accords in sectors such as the automotive industry, technology, trade, and so forth.

Now we will create a common market; we will create a common regional environment. The creation of this market is provided for in the treaty that will be signed by the two presidents. It is a very important step. I believe we can call it historic. I mean to say that in the past our relations were marked by an atmosphere of mutual distrust, in which no bridges were built in the Argentine region between the Parana and Uruguay Rivers because it was said a Brazilian invasion was likely. There was the same reaction on the Brazilian side. We should now forget all that, because we have built a new relationship, not only of peace but also of construction through mutual help.

The integration treaty to be signed with Brazil is a legal-political instrument that creates a common market with Brazil over a certain number of years, based on the definition of some stages that are to be covered in specific periods.

[Reporter] Can you give us an exmaple of a concrete benefit that this step would give to both countries?

[Caputo] Look, the world is moving toward the creation of interregional systems, and everyone is aware of this.

[Reporter] Obviously. The EEC marked the starting point.

[Caputo] Based on the example of the EEC, of Asia, of the Socialist countries, and even of the (?United States). A new situaiton has developed at the world level in the 1987-88 period. The easing of tensions and the resolution of many conflicts will make it possible for nations to jump from the regional to the hyper-regional systems. The markets will now supply 500 to 700 million people. This will change the world economy and will change the conditions for competition. Argentina, with its 30 million people, cannot compete at that level. Therefore...

[Reporter, interrupting]...Neither can Argentina meet the current challenges...

[Caputo, interrupting]...Neither can it recover the time that has been wasted, nor can it give Argentines decent living conditions and well-being. These are the things that are decisive for the real well-being of Argentines. Therefore, Argentina needs a regional economic system. The point is that we will be unable to compete at the world level, that our industrial capacity will be insufficient, and that our bargaining power, at the world level, will also be insufficient if we do not create a regional economic system.

A regional economic system entails many advantages, like the fact that foreign capital will be attracted. The financial resources needed for 30 million people are quite different than the funds needed for 170 million. Another advantage is the development of the export sector, the development of the capacity to compete at the world level, and the development of our international bargaining power. Now, the consequences are not only of an economic nature. The creation of a regional system of this size also has considerable political consequences. The political bargaining power of a system made up of Argentina and Brazil is certainly different than the current bargaining power of Argentina.

CNEA, Siemens Sign Accord for Nuclear Plant

PY2411202788 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1137 GMT 24 Nov 88

[By special correspondent]

[Text] Munich, FRG, 24 Nov (TELAM)—Today the CNEA and the German Siemens company signed a memorandum of understanding to finance the necessary supplies and services to continue the construction of the Atucha II nuclear plant. The agreement runs from 1989-91. Atucha II could begin operating in 1994.

The memorandum was signed by a Siemens representative and CNEA chairperson Emma Perez Ferreira. The signing ceremony was held at a hotel where President Raul Alfonsin is staying in Munich. Alfonsin attended the ceremony.

During the ceremony, Alfonsin said that this type of cooperation confirms historical traditions between Germany and Argentina.

The memorandum, which should be approved by the governments of the two countries, establishes that in 1989 the CNEA will cover its own costs, as well as those involving transportation, insurance, taxes, initial payments for imports, and liaison operational costs totaling some $34 million.

On the other hand, Siemens will allocate additional funds required for 1989 so the project continues to develop. Both countries will allocate some $68 million to fund the plant.

According to the memorandum, any credit not originating in the FRG may be considered a CNEA contribution.

To implement the financing, the German side will secure, through banks, credit totaling $200 million for the 1989-91 period.

The memorandum establishes that if German credit is not totally used during 1989-91 due to Argentine contributions, it may be transferred to 1991.

The Argentine Government will attempt to begin operations in the Atucha II nuclear power plant in 1994.

Brazil

Sarney: Common Market Focus of Argentina Visit

PY2911005088 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Excerpt] President Sarney will land in Buenos Aires in another 30 minutes to begin a 44-hour official visit to Argentina. This will be Sarney's seventh meeting with his Argentine counterpart Raul Alfonsin.

The purpose of Sarney's visit is to set up a Latin American common market. Several agreements will be signed on 30 November, including one on metallurgy. The two presidents want to make certain that the process of integration will not be interrupted by the presidential elections next year—the Argentine elections in May with the inauguration in December, and the Brazilian elections in November with the inauguration in March 1990.

During their meetings the two presidents will discuss the foreign debt and the balance of trade between their two countries. At present the balance of trade favors Brazil by about $400 million. Tomorrow morning the two presidents will have their first working meeting, and soon afterward they will visit the Ezeiza Nuclear Plant. The two presidents will meet again during the afternoon, and then they will sign the agreements.

Before departing for Buenos Aires, President Sarney delegated the Presidency to Chamber of Deputies President Ulysses Guimaraes, who becomes acting president for the 17th time. Shortly afterward President Sarney talked to reporters:

[Begin Sarney recording] I hope our policies can be continued by the governments that come after us, because they look after the well-being of our two peoples. We will sign a treaty. This treaty will be in effect for 10 years. The purpose of the treaty is the creation of a common market between Argentina and Brazil that can later be opened to other countries. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Brizola, Military Hold 'Secret' Meeting

PY2811150388 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Nov 88 p A-8

[By Marcelo Tognozzi]

[Text] A general and a colonel specially commissioned by Army Minister General Leonidas Pires Goncalves held a secret meeting in Brasilia on 3 March with Leonel Brizola, president of the PDT [Democratic Labor Party]. Brizola is a likely presidential candidate for his party. Once his candidacy is made public, Brizola said he will contact the military "through institutional channels, to create a climate of confidence for mutual understanding."

During the meeting held at the residence of Deputy Brandao Monteiro, PDT leader in the Chamber of Deputies, General Oswaldo Pereira Gomes and Colonel Ivan Goncalves de Faria asked Brizola about his plans for the country. Resende City Mayor-elect Noel de Carvalho, then a deputy, also attended the meeting.

The meeting and nature of the discussions were absolutely secret for nearly 8 months, known only by the military officers and the PDT congressional bloc. After questioning by FOLHA this past Wednesday [23 November], Gen Oswaldo Pereira Gomes, Army properties director, admitted that the meeting was held.

The day before yesterday, at his ranch in Uruguay, Brizola revealed the details of the talks and explained: "I did not make public the meeting for ethical reasons." According to the PDT president, the contacts before the meeting were made directly between the Army and Deputy Brandao Monteiro "as a follow-up to conversations initiated at the Constituent Assembly."

At the meeting, Gen Pereira Gomes, who affirmed that he participated in it as an Army Ministry representative, told Brizola that Army officers wanted information on the PDT government platform and national plans. The general insisted that Brizola not make a speech.

Brizola then replied that his political-administrative project is mainly based on health, food, and education. He spoke of the importance of CIESP's (Integrated Public Education Centers) and cited his government's examples in the Rio de Janeiro State (1983-87).

Gen Pereira Gomes, an expert in constitutional law who acts as political counsel to Army Minister Leonidas Pires Goncalves, listened attentively to Brizola for 40 minutes without making a comment.

When the PDT president ended his explanation, Col Ivan Goncalves de Faria revealed that he was one of the military officers sent to arrest Brizola in 1964. According to Brizola, the colonel was embraced and "pardoned."

Brizola's contacts with the military began during his tenure as Governor of Rio de Janeiro, when General Joao Baptista Figueiredo was the country's president. In 1986, after Gen Figueiredo left the government, Brizola met with him at least four times. In 1987, Brizola and the former president met three more times.

In 1987, Brizola talked with the former president's brother, General Diogo Figueiredo, chief of the Army Materiel Department and a member of the Army High Command.

Asked about the topic of his conversation with Gen Diogo Figueiredo, Brizola replied that he did not want to go into detail because he wanted to avoid speculation. According to the PDT president, his contacts with the Army continued through PDT congressional bloc leader Brandao Monteiro all through 1988.

According to Brizola, the meeting with Gen Pereira Gomes "was a normal and coherent exchange of ideas between a party leader and a military authority."

Leonel Brizola told FOLHA that he feels that "the climate of misunderstanding is vanishing, and prejudice is no longer a fact of life."

Brizola has not yet decided when he will officially contact the military. He said that it is necessary "to overcome the inhibition of being a presidential candidate first."

Military Ministers Mark Uprising Anniversary

PY2811142388 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 Nov 88 p 3

[Excerpt] Brasilia—In today's order of the day recalling the 53d anniversary of the communist uprising, the military ministers have asserted that any attempt by extremist or radical groups to destabilize the Brazilian social order is destined to fail. The military ministers will attend the ceremony to recall the aborted communist uprising. The ceremony will be held at Vermelha beach today, and will be presided over by President Jose Sarney.

In the order of the day the three military ministers—Navy Minister Henrique Saboia, Army Minister Leonidas Pires Goncalves, and Aeronautics Minister Otavio Moreira Lima—state that they recall the episode "not out of revenge" or "as a retaliatory attempt typical of extremism" but rather to "reassert a democratic stance" and to "assure the nation that the Armed Forces remain alert, safeguarding the right to freely choose the future with justice, order, work, and peace." [passage omitted]

Ministry Announces Sonda-4 Rocket Launch Delay

PY2511171388 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Nov 88 p C-6

[By Roberto Lopes]

[Excerpt] The Aeronautics Ministry has canceled the launch of its Sonda-4 rocket scheduled for 16 December. This was to be the first rocket flight of this type since the thwarted launch in October 1987, when, due to a problem with the electronic equipment, the first stage of a Sonda-4 rocket failed to disengage from the second stage and the rocket crashed to earth a few minutes after having been launched from the Barreira do Inferno platform in Natal (Rio Grande do Norte).

This time the problem lies in the rocket's inertial navigation system. The Space Activities Institute (IAE) of the Aerospace Technology Center (CTA) in Sao Jose dos Campos (Sao Paulo) lacks the equipment of this type required for the mission. The IAE was receiving aid in this field from U.S. enterprises, but the U.S. Government has cut all cooperation in this regard.

There are signs that the IAE is now trying to get the British enterprise Ferranti to repair old U.S.-made Space Vector navigation equipment. New equipment of this type costs approximately $200,000 (about 108 million cruzados at the official exchange rate). Launching of the Sonda-4 has been rescheduled for January 1989. [passage omitted]

VLS Launch Also Postponed

PY2611023888 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Nov 88 p C-6

[Text] In addition to having postponed the launch of the next Sonda-4 rocket, the Aeronautic Ministry Space Activities Institute (IAE) has postponed the launch of a smaller model of the Satellite Launching Vehicle (VLS), scheduled for late November.

The flight has been rescheduled for February 1989. Sonda-4 will be used as a VLS. The vehicle that will be launched into space in the next decade will be comprised of Sonda-4 engines and other equipment currently being tested.

The smaller VLS model, called R-2, is being developed by the Sao Paulo enterprise Bernardini. Loading propellant in the R-2 engines will take about a month.

Marijuana, Cocaine Seized in Mato Grosso, Rio

PY2811121588 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia in Portuguese 0900 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Two and one-half tons of marijuana were seized yesterday in Ponta Pora, Mato Grosso do Sul. The drug was found in a truck that belongs to Rafael Medina, a resident of that city. According to Medina, the marijuana was being shipped to Mococa, Sao Paulo State from where it was to have been distributed in Rio de Janeiro.

In Rio de Janeiro, 54 kilograms of marijuana were found buried in the Lins de Vasconcelos neigborhood by the police. The drug was found thanks to an anonymous informer.

The Rio de Janeiro police believe that 5 of the 10 murders perpetrated last Saturday were the result of a dispute over control of drug trafficking in the hilly slum of Rio de Janeiro.

In Campo Grande, the Federal Police yesterday arrested eight cocaine traffickers, residents of Rio de Janeiro, that are linked with drug trafficking organizations operating in the Baixada Fluminense. In an operation aimed at arresting drug traffickers, the police also seized nearly 6 kilograms of cocaine powder.

Police Kill 8 Traffickers, Seize Drugs

PY2911011288 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Eight drug traffickers died in a clash with police forces at Providencia Hill in downtown Rio de Janeiro today. Early in the afternoon, military secret police agents went to Providencia Hill to arrest drug trafficker Edson Sarandi, also known as Playboy, who controls drug trafficking in the zone. The traffickers, hiding inside a school, shot at the agents, who asked for reinforcements. A shootout ensued in which eight traffickers died. Three traffickers were arrested. In the school the police found among other weapons an AR-15 automatic rifle, which is used exclusively by the U.S. Armed Forces.

In Mato Grosso do Sul, the federal police seized 5 kg of cocaine and arrested a gang that sent the drugs to Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo. The police action was performed on one of the most crowded streets in Campo Grande. A boy and two women, who were carrying 2 kg of cocaine inside their clothes, were arrested. The police then arrested the trafficker who supplied the drugs. Bolivian Ignacio Salazar was arrested carrying 3 kg of cocaine.

According to the police, the gang sent the drugs to Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo.

In another operation in Ponta Pora, federal police seized 2.5 tons of marijuana this weekend. The drugs were being taken from Paraguay to Sao Paulo in a truck that was carrying lumber.

In Para, the federal police are investigating a new route used by cocaine traffickers. The drugs might be leaving Brazil through Belem, and then taken to French Guiana on the way to Paris. The police said the route is being used by French trafficker (Jean Paul Gerad Garnet), who was arrested in Belem and who should be extradited to France over the next few days at the request of the French courts. (Garnet) had been living in Brazil illegally.

Police Raid Slum Area, Arrest 77 Suspects

PY2311114088 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 22 Nov 88 p 1

[Text] After the occupation of the Cantagalo slum area, the Borel slum area, which has also been the scene of gangland fights, was occupied by police on orders of Governor Moreira Franco. The operation began at 0500 and lasted 9 hours. During that time 480 members of the civilian and military police arrested 77 suspects, several of whom were identified as members of the gangs of Isaias Costa Rodrigues and Marcos da Conceicao Pinto, alias Marquinho, who are fighting for control on drug trafficking in the region. The gang chiefs were able to escape. According to information received by police, Costa Rodrigues escaped dressed as a woman.

Chile

Pinochet Not To Run in Presidential Election

PY2811135288 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0344 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Santiago, 27 Nov (EFE)—President General Augusto Pinochet today affirmed that he will not be a candidate at the December 1989 presidential elections, because "I have already fulfilled my duty."

The head of state spoke to a group of some 1,000 women from the ultra-conservative National Vanguard Party at a ceremony in Vina del Mar, 125 km northeast of Santiago.

The lady president of this women's group that calls itself "Nationalist" asked Pinochet to run in 1989, and to disregard his defeat at the 5 October presidential plebiscite.

General Pinochet replied: "Not again, because I have fulfilled my duty." He added that he will continue to work for the good of the country until the last day of his office term, 11 March 1990.

The Constitution that has been in force since 1980 expressly forebids the chief of state, who has been in power for 15 years, to run for reelection. However, according to some of his partisans, Pinochet could qualify to run for reelection if he steps down before the December 1989 election. Rightist groups such as the Independent Democratic Union (UDI) that supported Pinochet at the plebiscite, however, have publicly said that Pinochet's nomination to run at the presidential election is unconstitutional.

Commando Attacks Radio Station, Airs Message
PY2511183388 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] An armed commando, who claimed to represent the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front, today attacked the office of the Marga Marga radio station in Quilpue, a city located 100 km northwest of Santiago. The members of the commando broadcast a message against the military regime of General Pinochet.

The three-man commando tied and locked up the two radio station employees. The attackers placed a cassette in the broadcasting equipment and then fled in a car.

The subversive message against Pinochet was transmitted for about 10 minutes.

Series of Terrorist Bombings Described
PY2611235988 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Summary] A series of terrorist bombings hit Santiago and other cities last night.

In Santiago, a bomb made of 500 grams of ammonium gelignite exploded inside the (OTEEMOS) plant located on Caupolican and Balmaceda Streets.

Another bomb, made of 100 grams of ammonium gelignite, exploded at a private residence on Carrascales and Lo Espinoza Streets.

A bomb destroyed a light post on Carlos Valdovinos Street near the corner of Miguel Campos Street.

Another bomb exploded close to midnight near the Cerro Nabia City Hall.

A bomb exploded at Bernarda Morin park near the National Foundation for Culture building.

In another incident, political agitators set fire to roadblocks on 5 de Abril Avenue near the 5000 block. Bombs were also heard in the vicinity, all in an attempt to block traffic to and from Maipu District.

All of these attacks did little damage and caused no injuries.

La Serena, fourth region: Last night a bomb destroyed an electric tower and left La Serena and Coquimbo without light for nearly 8 hours. The bomb destroyed one electric tower, damaged two others, and severed the high-voltage line near San Joaquin.

Also last night, two terrorists wearing ski masks threw two Molotov cocktails inside a Mormon Church located on 526 Manuel Jesus Rivera Street of San Juan, port of Coquimbo. Light damage was reported.

Temuco, ninth region: At 2315 last night a bomb destroyed a telephone switching center at 1625 Oliva Balmaceda and Zenteno Streets in Temuco. Light damage was reported in nearby houses, and a broad area was left without telephone service.

Concepcion, eighth region: Two bombs exploded during the night in the areas of Lota and Coronel, Concepcion Province.

At 2210 last night in Lota, terrorists placed a 2 kg ammonium gelignite bomb on an electric tower located in the Cabanas sector of Playa Blanca. The bomb caused a blackout in the district that lasted until early this morning.

Forty-five minutes later another bomb, which was made with 1 kg of plastic explosives, blew up the water meter of the Public Services Building in Coronel. The bomb was heard throughout the city, caused damages worth 2 million pesos, and damaged houses in the vicinity. The bomb damaged the health department, the civil registration office, the juvenile court, the transportation department, the drafting office, the labor court, and the 3d Carabineros precinct. Two children, brothers Carola, 6, and Felipe, 3, were bruised when the bomb shook their house. They were treated in a nearby hospital.

Former Senator Montes Held 5 Days, Released
PY2911025988 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 19 Nov 88 p C-5

[By Gonzalo Cruzat Bizama]

[Text] Valparaiso—"I was arrested last Sunday [13 November], and I was held incommunicado for 5 days. I was released a few minutes ago, and I still do not know why I was arrested, because the reasons given by the naval judge have not provided any sort of explanation."

This statement was made yesterday by former Senator Jorge Montes upon leaving the Valparaiso prison shortly before 2000, after Valparaiso naval judge Captain Miguel Angel Munoz ordered his release on the grounds that the detainee had no charges to answer.

Montes was taken to the prison last Sunday, and he was held incommunicado after 3 hours of questioning by the naval judge, who ordered Montes' arrest in connection with case No 6920, which is related to the death of a security agent in the Gomez Carreno Zone in Vina del Mar last May.

Montes said that "it is of the utmost importance for the lives of all Chileans to have fair civil and military courts that operate in keeping with rules that take into account the significance of human life."

He added that "for example, the links that the judge wanted to see between the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front and my own activities are totally groundless, because I have nothing to do with it."

Aylwin Faction Winning PDC Internal Elections

PY2911031488 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] The Patricio Aylwin faction gained an important victory in the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] internal elections, according to results released by his staff.

Unofficial results from 85 percent of the voting places reveal that 57.76 percent of the delegates to the PDC National Board, which will be in charge of designating the PDC candidate for the presidential elections, support Aylwin. Gabriel Valdez obtained 22.63 percent of the votes, and Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle 19.8 percent.

Miguel Salazar, executive secretary of Aylwin staff said these percentages represent the votes of the elected delegates and of those members who make up the National Board by virtue of their position as provincial presidents of the PDC.

[Begin Salazar recording] The results of the voting are as follows: 29 provincial presidents support Aylwin, 6 support Gabriel Valdes, and 6 support Eduardo Frei Ruiz Tagle. These results reveal that Aylwin has gained the wide and overwhelming support of the delegates who are provincial presidents of the PDC.

As for the elected delegates to the National Board, the results are as follows: 99 support Aylwin, 38 support Gabriel Valdes, and 31 support Eduardo Frei Ruiz Tagle. [end recording]

Salazar said he thinks that when the electoral process is over, the victory of Aylwin's faction will be confirmed on Sunday [4 December], and they believe the margin of votes might increase.

Economy Minister: Visit to PRC 'Successful'

PY2811124988 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Chilean Economy Minister Manuel Concha has stated that trade with the PRC during the past 5 years has increased by more than 31 percent. He attributed this growth to the free trade policy that operates in both countries.

The minister termed his recent visit to the PRC successful and added that our countries' economies will allow a significant increase in bilateral trade in the coming years.

New Carabinero Appointments Effective 1 Dec

PY2811183088 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Summary] Carabinero General Jorge Portilla Carvajal, who is currently the Carabinero Order and Security chief, has been appointed deputy director of Carabineros as of 1 December, replacing Oscar Torres Rodriguez, who will retire on the same date. This information was disclosed through a communique issued by the Carabineros Public Relations Department.

The communique also states that Carabineros General Mario Gabriel Ormeno Melet has been appointed new chief of Order and Security; Colonel Ivan Gonzalez Jorquera, chief of the 2d Carabineros Zone headquartered in Valparaiso; Colonel (Julio Mardones Cerrada), deputy chief of the Carabinero Special Police Affairs Department; and Colonel German Segura Brandt, deputy chief of the Carabineros Medical Corps.

General Manuel Mardones Rodriguez, current chief of the 2d Zone in Valparaiso, will assume the position of chief of the Metropolitan Zone.

Colombia

FARC Reportedly Accepts Peace Proposal

PA2811181288 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1735 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Here is some good news for peace prospects. Senator Alvaro Leyva Duran has received a cassette. You remember that he made a peace proposal to the national government a few days ago. The cassette was sent to him by the FARC Secretariat, specifically Jacobo Arenas, who states that he accepts the senator's peace plan and that talks can be held through the means which the senator has made public. The cassette arrived this morning and its contents will be made known to the country this afternoon. In this way, work can continue on this topic with the FARC in Casa Verde [the FARC headquarters].

Police Arrest Two EPL Members in Bogota

PA2311210288 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Report by Maria Clara Garcia]

[Text] The Bogota authorities today arrested two men carrying several sticks of dynamite. The criminals are being held at the Puente Aranda military installation.

The Cundinamarca Police Department Command discovered a Popular Liberation Army, EPL, terrorist plan, which included the destruction of several electric towers. They intended to cause a power outage in Bogota. The authorities believe the power outage was planned to coincide with the attack on the Colombian defense minister.

Thanks to the cooperation of citizens, authorities discovered a dynamite charge composed of 4 packages containing 15 sticks of dynamite each and a slow-burning fuse at electric tower No 30 in Sitio Mondonedo, near Facatativa. The terrorists also stole a 1960 red Ford station wagon with license plate No AA3143, whose owner is Mr Feliciano Garcia.

The authorities recovered the vehicle and arrested terrorists Hugo Montejo Rojas, 24, and Samir Monroy Escobar, who had no identification papers. The terrorists were carrying two 60-kg charges of dynamite. Each charge was made up of 15 dynamite sticks and a slow-burning fuse.

Guerrillas Kidnap 8 Soldiers in Antioquia
PA2311131788 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Eight soldiers have been kidnapped while off duty near Caucasia Municipality, Antioquia Department. The soldiers belong to the Rifles Battalion, which is part of the 10th Brigade.

Army Troops Kill Six Guerrillas in Skirmish
PA2811131488 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Six guerrillas of a still unidentified group died today in a skirmish with Army troops in Morelia, Caqueta Department.

Meanwhile, in Ciudad Bolivar, Antioquia Department, insurgents apparently belonging to the National Liberation Army placed a bomb in the city's administrative offices and also destroyed four farms, causing approximately 100 million pesos in damage.

Flooding, Landslides Reported in Cucuta, Caldas
PA2311140988 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The rainy season has continued to affect the entire nation. In Cucuta Corregimiento, the landslide that destroyed 100 homes in Tucunare has caused losses of 400 million pesos. Transportation has been severely impaired in northern Santander Department because of landslides on the roads linking Pamplona and Ocana with the departmental capital. [passage omitted]

In Guamalito Corregimiento, north of Ocana, the El Carmen Stream overflowed, forcing 200 families to evacuate the area. In Puerto Santander, Cucuta Corregimiento, the residents of six districts were also evacuated. The swelling of the La Grita and Zulia Rivers is keeping these areas in a state of alert. [passage omitted]

In Caldas Department, an alert has been declared because of the situation caused by the rainy season. Landslides are taking place throughout the department, blocking four highways. Twelve houses were destroyed in Manizales. [passage omitted] The Civil Defense and Red Cross remain on a state of alert for new landslides, and 56 families have been evacuated from the Manizales area. In addition, over 300 people have been moved to shelters. Manizales is now isolated from Pereira, Bogota, and northern Caldas Department.

In Antioquia Department, there are over 7,000 victims of the rainy season. The situation is most critical in Caucasia Municipality, where five corregimientos and eight districts are flooded. In all, 3,000 people have been evacuated from that area. [passage omitted]

Energy Minister Announces Two New Gas Fields
PA2711214788 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Nov 88 pp 1, 8

[Report by Hermogenes Ardila]

[Summary] Two new gas fields have been discovered that will guarantee fuel for Bogota and surrounding areas for the next 4-5 years. According to information released by Mines and Energy Minister Oscar Mejia Vallejo, the fields were discovered by the Lasmo-PP association. The minister's announcement was made 1 week after Ecopetrol President Andres Restrepo Londono confirmed the unproductivity of the two wells at La Guajira: Tinka-1 and Almirante-1.

Government Establishes Embassy in Greece
PA2811200888 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 25 Nov 88 p 1

[Summary] The Colombian Government has established an embassy in Greece. Formerly, the Colombian ambassador to Italy took care of matters related to Greece since there was no Colombian ambassador in Athens. Eduardo Barajas is currently the Colombian consul general to Greece.

Peru

Strikes Continue in Mines, Banks, Other Sectors
PY2811134088 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0253 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Lima, 27 Nov (EFE)—Union sources today reported that the strikes of bank employees and mineworkers, which are two important sectors in the country's economy, will continue next week.

Textile workers, Judicial Branch employees, and public charity organization workers also decided to continue their strikes for salary increases and better working conditions.

Energy and Mines Minister Jose Carrasco said on 26 November that the 41-day strike by about 60,000 miners has cost the country approximately $200 million. [passage omitted]

Disturbances in Cusco Protest Economic Measures
PY2411143088 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1337 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Lima, 24 Nov (TELAM-ANSA)—Interior Minister Admiral Juan Soria Diaz, retired, today reminded the people that the government is constitutionally empowered to implement emergency measures if there is looting and violence in the country. He did not rule out the possibility of emergency measures being expanded.

It was reported today in the city of Cusco, in the southeastern Andes, that groups of hotheads provoked disturbances to protest the economic measures that the government implemented on 22 November to control very serious inflation.

Cusco authorities suspended school after the serious attacks against public establishments.

In Lima, the government has authorized employers to make things easy for employees coming to work at a time when the transport strike is gathering strength.

An indefinite strike by approximately 30,000 bank employees begins today. They are demanding that salaries continue to be indexed to the cost of living.

Defense Minister Rules Out Civil War, Coup
PY2811131688 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Defense Minister Enrique Lopez Albujar has ruled out the possibility that the country is on the brink of a civil war. He emphasized that the Armed Forces respect the Constitution. Gen Lopez also referred to the murder of CARETAS reporter Hugo Bustios.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] According to an article published in a daily newspaper yesterday, Senator Valle Riestra said that we are on the brink of civil war and a collapse [words indistinct]. What is the Armed Forces position on this issue?

[Lopez] I believe we are a long way from civil war or collapse. I respect the comments of people about the current political situation and the country in general, but we are a long way from civil war. However, we should be aware that there are very serious problems, and we should also be aware that these problems are the responsibility of all Peruvians. If we want to prevent an extreme situation we must make an effort to prevent this from occurring.

[Reporter] How are the Armed Forces taking their responsibility in the face of the crisis which neither you nor anybody else has denied?

[Lopez] First of all the Armed Forces maintain their commitment to the Constitution and they will always be ready to defend the constitutional order. As a result of the escalation in subversive activity, the Joint Command, I am referring to the military front, is making permanent evaluations and is adopting the necessary adjustments to fight subversion with greater success.

[Reporter] The National Defense Council met yesterday. Is an investigation being conducted into the killing of the CARETAS reporter and the other reporter who was wounded? Did the council discuss the possibility that the attackers are Shining Path members?

[Lopez] No, the National Defense Council did not discuss those issues [words indistinct]. Undoubtedly the recent event near Huanta deserves a thorough investigation in order to find the people responsible for the attack.

[Reporter] There is talk about a military investigation of this case; can you confirm or deny this?

[Lopez] Many times mistakes can be made by trying to conduct personal investigations. I believe we should be serious and conscientious about events of this nature. These events should be condemned because they affect the lives of people who in one way or another are facing subversion. It is necessary to conduct an investigation, and the appropriate organizations will have all the necessary facilities to do so.

[Reporter] Will the people responsible for the attack be punished?

[Lopez] Without any doubt. After an investigation is conducted and conclusions are made, it will be up to the courts to punish the people responsible for the attack. [end recording]

New Economy Minister Queried on Future Policy
PY2911025088 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Recently appointed Economy Minister Carlos Rivas Davila was sworn in by President Alan Garcia this afternoon during a cermemony at the Golden Hall of Government Palace.

Rivas Davila is the fifth economy minister of Garcia's administration. [passage omitted]

After being sworn in, the new economy minister called on all sectors of society, workers and businessmen alike, to add their efforts to overcome the crisis. He said the first step of this campaign is to bring inflation under control.

[Begin Rivas recording] Now that all the national and internaitonal communication media are present, I want to say that this is a great responsibility, a historic challenge for our fatherland. The crisis is serious, but we will assume the challenge with all responsibility. The task is not only mine, but also that of all Peruvians.

I want to call on all intelligent people, on the productive sectors, on enterpreneurs and workers, to unite so that we can overcome this crisis. I trust that if we all add our share of sacrifice in this very critical moment, we will be able to overcome all of our difficulties. The problems of the country and the problems of the economic crisis can be solved. There are people who for political reasons, or some other defeatist or pessimistic reason, are saying that we do not have a way out. We will tell those people that we do have a way out.

Experience shows—and not only in Latin America; we have repeatedly mentioned Bolivia, but look also at other countries like Germany, Japan, and other nations after World War II—that situations like this can be overcome.

We trust that this job will be carried out by all. We have to face our difficulties and our pessimism not with excessive confidence, but with a lot of realism and seriousness.

[Reporter] Does this mean the present economic program will continue?

[Rivas] We are evaluating the situation. I had a meeting this morning with former minister Salinas and all the directors of the different departments of the Economy Ministry. We have received the technical information. We are also coordinating with the Senate president to submit to the Senate and the nation the main aspects of our economic situation. We will do this probably next week, perhaps as early as 5 December.

[Reporter] Will you submit a new program?

[Rivas] The main purpose of the economic program is to fight inflation and try to correct the most important discrepancies in our economy. This is our purpose. We are trying to make our program more coherent, turn it into a national plan of development. Our problems have not only arisen from a particular situation; they are also structural. At this time we have to put the emphasis on controlling inflation.

[Reporter] Are you contemplating any new economic package?

[Rivas] Our problem will not be solved by new economic packages. We have to improve the economic situation of the country without implementing measures that hurt the people or create more problems.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Rivas] Former minister Abel Salinas has outlined our policy toward the international financial organizations. We have to make our relations with the financial system more dynamic because their support is very important for our development and stability.

[Reporter] Are you proposing a rapprochement with the IMF?

[Rivas] We will continue with the government program. It is not a matter of more or less rapprochement. Our problem is the development of the country. What we seek is for the resoruces we need to come with the best possible conditions. [end recording]

Army Communique on Military-'Subversive' Clash
PY2611142388 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Concerning the events in Ayacucho on 22 [as heard] November, the Central Security Zone Command today issued the following official communique:

1. On 22 [as heard] November at 1400, a 60-man Army patrol traveling to Tingo Maria by road was attacked in the town of (Milano), northern Ayacucho District, by over 300 subversive criminals.

In the attack, the subversives used AKM and FAL rifles, machineguns, explosives, handguns, and other weapons.

2. In the attack, 22 soldiers were killed and 3 were injured. An undetermined number of subversive criminals were also killed. Six bodies of subversive criminals were found, and it is presumed that the rest of the bodies were removed from the area by the subversives.

3. The Central Security Zone Command has ordered operations to search for the subversive column with the available transportation. These operations have been hampered by the weather conditions in the area. The results will be released as soon as the appropriate information becomes available.

4. The events are being investigated by the appropriate organizations of this Command.

It can be announced, however, that the press reports concerning possible outrages committed by the forces of order against the people are absolutely untrue.

5. The events have been reported to the Central Security Zone prosecutor's office.

Rimac, 25 November 1988

Public relations office of the Central National Security Zone

We repeat that this clash occurred in Aucayacu.

Further Details

PY2411215588 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Telephone relay by Alejandro Rupay of Radio La Selva from Tingo Maria]

[Text] [Reporter] We have been informed that a clash between military personnel and subversives reportedly took place yesterday and that there were many casualties. What can you tell us about it?

[Rupay] That is right. Yesterday at approximately 1400 an Army truck carrying soldiers on their way to Aucayacu and (Baronilla) to relieve other soldiers was ambushed by subversives. Twenty-two soldiers were killed. So far 16 bodies have been found and autopsies were performed at the Tingo Maria General Hospital last night. The bodies of four soldiers have still not been found and two bodies were totally burned.

According to information we received this afternoon, several bodies were taken to Huanco to be buried. The relatives of the soldiers doing military service in Tingo Maria came early this morning to the Los Laureles military garrison to get information on the incident. However, the garrison is not releasing any information about the soldiers killed in a clash between the military and communist Shining Path subversives.

According to unofficial reports, a considerable number of Shining Path members were also killed; however, reports from (Tocaje) and Aucayacu, located 85 km from Tingo Maria, indicate that there were many innocent victims of the clash. There are reportedly old men and women among the casualties in Aucayacu.

This morning (Fileoncio Prado), provincial prefect, talked with the interior minister to report on the casualties. Yesterday afternoon reporters were not able to get much information on the event because the general hospital was cordoned off. This is why we do not know exactly how many people were killed.

[Reporter] Do you know how many subversives were killed?

[Rupay] So far all we have is speculation. The Defense Ministry released a statement saying that 100 subversives were killed, but according to people who came here from Aucayacu, only 15 of 22 were killed. It has also been reported that the majority of the casualties are inhabitants of Aucayacu and (Canjito).

[Reporter] We have learned that several patrols are pursuing the subversives.

[Rupay] Early this morning, members of the Civil Guard Special Forces left for Aucayacu. Several armed helicopters also left for Aucayacu and Pucayacu in an effort to capture the subversives responsible for the ambush [words indistinct] of the military forces stationed in Tingo Maria, Aucayacu and Huanco.

Terrorist Attack Causes Blackout in Large Area

PY2311114988 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Regarding the blackout early this morning, ELECTROPERU [Peruvian State Electric Power Enterprise] has released a communique urging the population to use as little electricity as possible in order to maintain the service.

The communique adds that the blackout was caused by a terrorist attack in the Valle del Mantaro area that damaged the Mantaro-Pomacocha and Mantaro-Pachachaca transmission lines, thus interrupting service between Marcona in the south and Chiclayo in the north.

Police Deactivate Powerful Bomb in Lima

PY2811132388 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1040 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Members of the bomb squad have deactivated a powerful bomb planted at the Andres Avelino Caceres Park, where President Alan Garcia was due to participate in the commemoration of the Battle of Tarapaca.

Interior Minister Says MRTA Bombed Building

PY2311134888 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Interior Minister Juan Soria Diaz has reported that the terrorist attack against the Lima Prefecture was perpetrated by the MRTA.

Soria said that investigations are under way to arrest the terrorists who bombed the prefecture building, shattering the windows and damaging the building.

Terrorist Attacks Cause Damage, Casualties

PY2811022688 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1940 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Lima, 27 Nov (AFP)—Police sources reported here today that during various terrorist attacks and clashes with the police, 12 people have been killed in the past 24 hours, thus increasing last week's death toll to 184.

The police of Trujillo, capital of La Libertad Department, 500 km north of Lima, have reported that on 25 November a high-ranking official and three employees of the La Libertad Development Corporation (CORLIB) were killed by alleged Shining Path terrorists while inspecting the highway that links the townships of Sanchez Carrion and Santiago de Chuco.

The source said that during the attack, which was perpetrated by a Shining Path cell made up of five men and one woman, CORLIB employee Carlos Castillo; Daniel Garcia,

the driver of the vehicle; and two unidentified employees were killed. Two employees identified as Jose Yupanqui and Lucio Quezada escaped unharmed from the attack.

Unofficial sources reported here today that last night five terrorists were killed by military forces who repelled an attack perpetrated by a column of 40 guerrillas. These guerrillas bombed part of the city hall building in Tingo Maria, Huanuco Department, 600 km east of Lima.

The guerrillas, who fought for more than 1 hour with soldiers guarding the city hall, also destroyed a military truck to prevent a chase.

In the township of Naranjilo, at the 45 km marker of the jungle highway, the bodies of plainclothes policemen, 2d Lieutenant Fernando Pizarro and Corporal Roberto Villa, were found handcuffed and blindfolded. Both had been shot twice in the head.

According to the police of Aucayacu, San Martin Department, Pizarro and Villa, whose bodies showed signs of torture, were killed by Shining Path guerrillas who seized them while they were traveling in a bus from Huanuco to Aucayacu on an intelligence assignment. [passage omitted]

The police have reported that yesterday Republican Guardsman Juan Gonzalez was killed and two of his comrades in arms, whose identities were not disclosed, were wounded when a guerrilla group machinegunned the control post of Chacco, 12 km north of Ayacucho, from a moving vehicle in the southeastern Andean region.

This wave of bloody terrorist attacks also swept over the Cahuide peasant cooperative of Huancayo, Junin Department, in central Peru, which was the target of a dynamite attack that caused damages of over $3 million, killing purebred cows and destroying facilities.

Besides these casualties, at least 29 military men, 7 government officials, 6 policemen, 3 peasants, 1 journalist, and 125 guerrillas were killed this week during various attacks that also caused serious damages.

Guards Repel Terrorist Attack on Bridge

PY2811210688 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] A Republican Guard detachment stationed in Ayacucho has repelled an attack by a terrorist commando group that tried to bomb the Chaco Bridge, 10 km from the city of Huamanaga.

The terrorists, wearing Army uniforms and carrying FAL rifles, arrived by car at the bridge and attempted to surprise the guards.

Guardsman Juan Gonzalez Avando died during the shootout. Gonzalez, who was taken to Lima, will be buried tomorrow at El Angel Cemetery.

A police spokesman said there were also casualties among the terrorists.

Cooperation Talks With USSR Begin in Lima

PY2811220488 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] The fifth Peruvian-Soviet meeting began today at the Torre Tagle Palace, the headquarters of the Foreign Ministry.

The Soviet delegation is headed by Soviet Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Vladimir Burmistrov, who arrived in Lima yesterday.

The Peruvian delegation, which is headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Felipe Valdivieso Belaunde, is made up of high-ranking officials from the ICE [Foreign Trade Institute], the Fisheries Ministry, the Transportation and Communications Ministry, the Energy and Mines Ministry, the Agriculture Ministry, and the autonomous Electric Railway Company.

The Soviet officials' visit to Peru is part of the cooperation agreement signed by the two countries. The valuable Soviet aid to Peru will be analyzed during this 4-day meeting.

Polish Delegation Arrives To Discuss Fishing

PY2411131888 Lima Domestic in Spanish 1030 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] A Polish Government delegation, headed by the Polish Transport, Navigation, and Trade vice minister [title as heard], Adam Nowotnik, has arrived in Lima with the goal of strengthening cooperation in fishing with our country.

In Lima, the high-level Polish delegation will negotiate with Peruvian Government officials a technical and scientific cooperation agreement to promote fishing within the 200-mile territorial waters.

Venezuela

Lusinchi Announces Signing of OPEC Agreement

PA2811192588 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi officially announced the signing of an OPEC agreement that ends overproduction by some members. In addition, it establishes a new production ceiling and a new quota system to stabilize prices at an average of $18 per barrel.

[Begin Lusinchi recording] I feel very happy and pleased that a Venezuelan minister played a key role in reaching an agreement that not only benefits OPEC members but also entails a major achievement for Third World countries that produce raw materials. We must defend ourselves. We must perfectly understand that our future in

the community of nations fundamentally depends on us, and that development and profound economic and social changes will not happen unless we work at it. [end recording]

Gil Discusses Agreement

PA2811182288 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Nov 88

["Exclusive" telephone interview with Energy and Mines Minister Julio Cesar Gil from Vienna, Austria, and Jenny Silva from Caracas—live]

[Text] [Silva] Good afternoon. We gladly welcome the latest OPEC agreement, as our country will be one of the chief ones to benefit from it. Can you give us fuller details on how the agreement was reached?

[Gil] Good afternoon, Jenny. This agreement is the result of very intense and, sometimes, hard negotiations, which lasted almost 2 weeks. We reached a very important agreement for all OPEC countries, I think. The agreement not only sets a production ceiling for next year at 18.5 million barrels a day, but also reincorporates Iraq. That country has not signed the agreement since 1986. The new production ceiling removes over 3 million barrels a day from the market. Therefore, we believe it will have a positive impact on prices. In fact, prices went up almost $1 [a barrel] today. Brent oil is over $15.

In addition, we reiterated the $18 price goal. All of us must strive to reach that price as soon as possible.

[Silva] From the viewpoint of OPEC's internal reunification, what is the most important aspect of this agreement? So far, there have been many deep differences within OPEC. It is clear that the agreement is a signal that the 13 member countries had a political commitment to reach a happy conclusion. Do you think the governments' political commitment will last?

[Gil] I think the most important thing that signals the political commitment to which you refer is Iraq's reincorporation into the production agreement. This is perhaps the most notable development, as it ends one of the serious problems that was dividing OPEC. In addition, I think this conference is important because it resolves a number of things that had an adverse impact on the organization. The Definitions Group, which was very active and in which we had an active role, made great strides, chiefly regarding condensates. This interests us.

[Silva] What was agreed upon regarding condensates?

[Gill] All the OPEC members unanimously agreed on a definition and a procedure that will be implemented as of April 1989. Based on this decision, it will not be possible to reclassify crudes as condensates any more. This is important because all of us want strict compliance with the agreement. Violations have always been the weak point in all our agreements. With this agreement, we are establishing the means to prevent violations regarding condensates.

[Silva] The violations that you mentioned are a very important matter. It is known that so far OPEC's sticking point has been to have the adequate means to control countries that violate the quotas. For example, what is to be done to control the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, who in most cases have been the ones who break the agreements?

[Gil] The agreement contains a rule whereby if it is proven that one violates the quotas, the other OPEC members would be free to produce all they want. I think that although we are not very happy with that rule, because it can lead to some excesses on the part of some countries, it is a kind of warning to everybody. The situation will not be the same as in the past when violators benefited from compliance with the agreement by the other countries.

Report Says Fishermen Killed by 'Coup de Grace'

PA2811220088 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Report by Maria Clara Gracia]

[Text] In Venezuela, autopsies have been performed on 9 of the 14 fishermen—including 2 Colombians—killed in El Amparo. The autopsy reports are being widely discussed. The investigations carried out by the Venezuelan Government directly involve the military authorities.

Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes has requested coordinated actions by the two countries to prevent such border incidents.

It was admitted that the remains of the fishermen were exhumed over the weekend. Seven of them were exhumed on 26 November and six on 27 November in Venezuela. The judicial report stated that there were no guerrilla clashes and that each was killed by a coup de grace of the Venezuelan Army.

The Venezuelan investigative commission entrusted with clarifying the Venezuelan military authorities' reasons for slaughtering 14 fishermen on 22 October in El Amparo directly involve the security organizations.

The autopsies performed on nine bodies have established that the peasants of the border area did not have an armed clash with the military. On the contrary, they were shot at a distance less than 1 meter, which is what the two survivors said from the beginning. Those survivors have now requested asylum in Caracas from the Mexican Government.

[Begin Londono recording] We hope such incidents will decrease and that the Venezuelan authorities along the border will coordinate with the Colombian civilian and

military authorities any actions for preserving—not only the lives of the Colombians on either side of the border—peace and tranquillity in the border area. [end recording]

Because 2 of the 14 murdered fishermen were Colombians, Londono Paredes stated that the government will maintain its initial stand of demanding compensation for the relatives of the dead Colombians. The government will also await an official notification from Venezuela on the results of the investigations on the El Amparo slaughter.

Guyana

Assembly Approves Additional Spending

FL2311171188 Bridgetown CANA in English
2115 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 22, CANA—Guyana's national assembly has allocated nearly Guy272 million dollars (one Guy dollar; 10 cents US) more for government to meet its commitments, including contributions to at least two regional institutions.

The assembly approved 254.4 million dollars for 1988, including 107 million dollars for current expenditure this year to meet what was described as "unanticipated expenditure." This included increased cost of travelling, and increased salaries, as well as increased cost of drugs.

The vote also covered Guyana's arrears and current contributions to a number of organisations, including the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute. (CARDI).

The money also helped finance celebrations here of the 150th anniversary of emancipation, and the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the first Indians in the Caribbeans.

The assembly voted 147 million dollars for capital expenditure, nearly all of it to provide equity to the Guyana Sugar Corporation, with 47 million dollars going towards rehabilitation work at a major agricultural district in the country.

The assembly also approved allocation of 17.4 million dollars from the 1987 contingency funds.

During debate on the measures, piloted by Finance Minister Carl Greendige, opposition members of the assembly expressed concern about the condition of the country's medical services, operations of the recently-closed Guyana Glassworks, and the agricultural rehabilitation project at Black Bush Polder.

The opposition called for more money for the project to repair roads, drainage and irrigation in the area.

Imported Sugar Necessary To Meet EEC Quota

FL2411033088 Bridgetown CANA in English
2359 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 23, CANA—Guyana on Wednesday announced that because of a serious shortfall in sugar production this year, it will be importing sugar to supply its domestic market so as to release local production to meet its European Economic Community (EEC) quota commitments of 167,000 tons by June, 1989.

This is believed to be the first time that the English speaking Caribbeans largest sugar producer has had to resort to importing sugar and analysts say it is indicative of serious problems affecting the industry.

Guyana had announced earlier that because of the serious production shortfall, it will not be able to ship its 1988 United States quota of 10,000 long tons and that Belize and Jamaica will take up this shortfall in keeping with an understanding reached in 1984 between the Caribbean Community (Caricom) and the United States for a Caricom regional sugar quota.

A statement by the state-owned Guyana Sugar Corporation (Guysuco) dated November 22 and circulated today did not say from which country or countries sugar will be imported or at what price. The statement explained, however, that the first shipment of imported sugar is expected in Guyana next month (December) and that "such shipments will continue to the extent that is necessary during 1989 to ensure that Guysuco can meet its commitments to the EEC." The corporation added: "The importation of sugar will be temporary in order to meet the immediate commitment to the EEC for 1988/89."

Production Shortfall Explained

FL2411193188 Bridgetown CANA in English
1538 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 24, CANA—The state-run Guyana Sugar Corporation (Guysuco) has blamed drought, heavy rainfall, and industrial action for low production which resulted in a shortfall in its export quota and a decision to important for domestic needs. Explaining the background to the corporation taking "some difficult marketing decisions," Guysuco said that it had originally planned to produce an estimated 230,000 tons of sugar this year.

However, drought and a 4-week strike earlier this year resulted in only 75,000 tons being produced during the first crop and in the 1988 estimates being slashed to 210,000 tons.

The second crop, it said, was "severely disrupted" by heavy rainfall and there was a large number of work stoppages, as a result, "the 1988 estimate has been further considerably reduced to 170,000 tons."

Its marketing commitments, meanwhile, stand at 214,000 tons comprising 37,000 tons for the domestic market for the year ending December 31, 1988; 167,000 tons to fulfill its European Community (EEC) quota for the year ending June 30, 1989; and 10,000 tons to meet its U.S. quota for the year ending December 31, 1988.

Guysuco said that after providing for the domestic market, the most essential task is to ensure that the EEC quota is met in full.

"This is a secure market provided for in the sugar protocol of the Lome convention and it is by far the largest and most remunerative market for Guyana's sugar.

"Guysuco is determined to maintain its record of never falling down on meeting this quota or its contractual commitments to the UK refiners, Tate and Lyle, which purchases Guyana's EEC quota sugar," Guysuco added.

It said its inability to meet its U.S. quota, is "a cause of great regret" but this inability is "temporary and applies only to 1988".

Guyana announced Wednesday that it would be importing sugar to supply its domestic market so as to satisfy the EEC quota. Last week it said Jamaica and Belize would take up the U.S. shortfall in keeping with an understanding reached in 1984 between the Caribbean Community and the U.S. for a Caricom regional quota.

Agreement With Venezuela on Malaria Control

FL2511164088 Bridgetown CANA in English 1544 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 25, CANA—Neighbours Guyana and Venezuela have agreed in principle on measures to control and possibly eradicate the deadly mosquito-borne disease, malaria, in the Guyana/Venezuela border region, the state media here reported.

Agreement was reached last weekend when a Guyanese team headed by Health Minister Dr Noel Blackman, travelled to San Martin on the Venezuelan side of the border for talks with a Venezuelan team.

The Guyana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC) reported that in keeping with the agreement, a malaria research centre would be established at Mabaruma on the Guyana side of the border. And according to the CHRONICLE newspaper, the measures agreed on also include the construction of health centres and the setting up of a dispensary in the border region. There will also be joint mosquito spraying and evaluation exercises.

"Both parties recognised the common interest in the resolution of the malaria problem and have therefore formulated a document designed to prevent mortality caused by malaria infections. This will be done through opportune diagnosis and treatment in all cases and the standardisation of treatment schedules," the CHRONICLE said.

It said training opportnites have also been agreed on as part of the cooperation package and it is hoped that through the use of combined forces, greater "coverage" will be provided in the border region where it said at one stage, malaria threatened to reach epidemic proportions.

In a bid to maintain the momentum, the two teams agreed that follow-up meetings should be held quarterly. The first of these quarterly meetings is scheduled to be held on March 6 next year in Guyana.

Suriname

Three 'Front' Leaders Visit Netherlands

Predeparture News Conference

FL2311204388 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 23 Sep 88

[Text] Assembly Chairman Jaggernath Lachmond has declared that Suriname needs (?solidarity) of the international court of law to obtain the money from the development cooperation treaty between Suriname and Holland. Various persons in our society are in favor of taking Holland to the international courts in order to get Holland to honor the development treaty of 1975. This treaty was unilaterally disbanded by Holland in 1982.

Lachmond, who was speaking at the press conference of the three leaders of the ruling coalition, said that the treaty has been put into operation again. According to him, there is no conflict situation and, therefore, no need to take Holland to the international court of law. Assembly Chairman Lachmond stated he leaves for Holland full of confidence and expects the visit to be successful. Lachmond has characterized the visit of the coalition leaders to Holland as a symbol of the formal restoration of relations between Holland and Suriname.

'Working Visit' Previewed

FL2311200588 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] During their official visit to Holland, the three Front [Front for Democracy and Development] leaders Henck Arron, Jaggernath Lachmond, and Willy Soemita will have to get through an extensive program.

(?On Saturday), the Surinamese politicians will leave for a working visit to Holland. The program includes, among others, a visit to the queen of Holland. The Front leaders will further hold discussions with the chairmen of the two chambers of the Dutch Parliament. There will also be a joint discussion with the vice president and the ministers of development cooperation and foreign affairs of the Dutch cabinet. Afterwards, the Front leaders will have separate talks with the ministers of finance and economic affairs.

The agenda of the Surinamese delegation also includes discussions with the joint standing committees of development cooperation and current affairs of the Second Chamber. Finally, the Front leaders will hold discussions with the [words indistinct] of the Dutch Central Bank.

Journalists from three Surinamese media houses will travel along with the delegation to Holland.

Arron on Netherlands Press

FL2311213988 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Vice President Arron sharply criticized the Dutch press yesterday during a press conference held by the three leaders of the Front for Democracy and Development. The aim of the press conference was to inform the public about the coming visit of the Front leaders to Holland.

Arron accused the Dutch press of publicity of half-truths, pertinent lies, insinuating remarks, and headlines which are completely fabricated. As an illustration, the vice president cited reports around the incident with Commander Bouterse, who was mistakenly arrested during a holiday in Sao Paulo. The Dutch press at that time published the wildest stories, according to Arron.

The vice president called on the press and the people not to believe everything the Dutch press says. Arron has also urged journalists to be careful in publishing articles [words indistinct]. Arron says the Dutch press may criticize him for his remarks but that he isn't afraid of criticisms since his standpoints are for the benefit of unity and harmony of the Surinamese nation. I won't be degenerated by the Dutch press, said in a statement Arron.

Lachmond Comments Reported

FL2811223088 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Front [for Development and Democracy] leader Jaggernath Lachmond told the press in Holland that he has not come to Holland to bang his fists on the table during negotiations. Fists are only being clenched by people who are fighting and we have not come to fight, according to Lachmond.

Willy Soemita, leader of the KTPI [Indonesian Peasant's Party], said that the development cooperation treaty of 1975 is still in force and no one can violate it. The three leaders of the Front also attended [words indistinct], which is the celebration of Suriname's independence in Holland. The front leaders pointed out to those present at the celebration that unity and brotherhood are necessary for the development of Suriname.

When the leaders arrived in Holland, supporters of the Brunswijk gang distributed a so-called open letter which was almost totally disregarded. The supporters of the terrorist gang [words indistinct] the Front leaders in the open letter. They said in the letter that they will keep on fighting the Dutch Government not to issue the development aid without any conditions.

President Meets on Conflict With Brunswijk

FL2411151088 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Three chief Surinamese officials travel to the Netherlands on Saturday for talks with the Dutch Government. The three, including Vice President Henck Arron, plan to brief Dutch officials about the political and economic situation in Suriname.

Meanwhile, Surinamese President Ramsewak Shankar met with representatives of Suriname's (Maroon) community yesterday to discuss efforts to end the war between the government and the Ronny Brunswijk rebels.

President: Sovereignty 'Seriously Threatened'

FL2511185188 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] On the occasion of Suriname's 13th independence anniversary, the country's sovereignty is being seriously threatened. This was stated this afternoon by President Ramsewak Shankar during a reception at the palace to mark the occasion.

The head of state said the [words indistinct] doesn't justify the action in east Suriname. The [words indistinct] with the holding of the action last year. In spite of the reintroduction of democracy, no peace has been reached yet.

The president indicated that people in the interior are being terrorized while the government is working towards peace. Because of this, plans for reconstruction in the interior had to be [passage indistinct].

Official To Attend Mexico's Inauguration

FL2811224288 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Ex-Foreign Minister Henk Heidweiller left Suriname today for Mexico to attend the inauguration of President Salinas de Gortari. The installation of the new Mexican president will take place on Thursday coming. Henk Heidweiller, who will represent the Suriname Government in Mexico, has for year been the nonresident ambassador to Mexico.